



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.

May 3, 2026
5th Sunday of Easter
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“ Somebody’s Knockin’ at Your Door ”

St. Mark’s Handbell Choir

**** CONFESSION OF SINS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the
power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our
sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us
again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of
life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together
with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your
hearts through faith.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 367

“ Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds ”

**** 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

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

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.

Refrain

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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

Refrain: Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength. R**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.” **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**** 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 14:1-14**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 810

“ O Jesus, I Have Promised ”

**** 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)*

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (*especially*). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

“ You Alone Are God ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 692

“ We Are and Offering ”

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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. 389

“ Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

Church Calendar May 3, 2026 – May 10, 2026

- Today** - Adult Forum
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday** - Chancel Choir at 6:30 p.m.
- Handbell Choir at 7:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday** **Mother's Day**
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- with Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Karen Myers
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Stephanie Berger
Safe Keeper:	Phyllis Rinker
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 Flower are available for dedication.



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, Sig Blamble, Norma, Joe, Kimmie, Abe, Angie, Fred Meyer, baby Davis Wilson who is recovering from heart surgery, Tom Bingham, Senta Heinrich, Mary, Eric, Jeff Gilbert, Marylynn, Michael, Sally, George, David, Roger, Clint, C.J. Bennett, Micah Teter

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Bil McGahn, Debra Lohman, Family of Becky Preston, Christine Chaney, Autumn and Jordan, Bravo, Erina, Miss Ann Collins, Shania, Joey Welch & his family, Mr. Kittle, Eli

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 9

Bikes For the World Collection Day

Announcements

Bikes for the World

The April Special Offering will support Bikes for the World. Since 2011, B4W has provided transportation for more than 217,000 individuals in all parts of the world. B4W does much more than provide transportation; it strives to transform communities. Bikes are donated to partner organizations to make positive change ongoing and sustainable. One central focus for these bikes is on making schools more accessible to students.

Your financial contribution will go towards greatly supporting this endeavor. On May 9, St. Mark's will hold its second collection. Details are on the website at https://stmarksoakland.com/bike_min.php. Please spread the word and if you can, consider helping on collection day, May 9 for a few hours.

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).

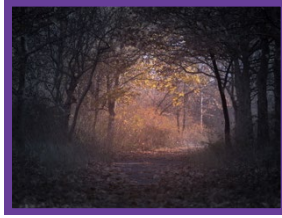
Electronics

- 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.



May 3, 2026, Fifth Sunday of Easter John 14:1-14

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



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

Loving God, you have prepared a place for us which we have never seen, and yet believe exists. Give us faith, hope and vision to trust in your resurrection promise, that we might join you in your heavenly kingdom in the fullness of time, together with our risen Lord Jesus. Amen.



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

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus proclaims himself "the way, and the truth, and the life." His radical invitation to God's home is for all people.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Tell of a time you were lost, either physically or emotionally. What do you do to find your way?
- Where do you think Jesus is leading you?
- For the littles: Have you ever been lost? How did you get found? Jesus promises to show us the way home.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God lighten your path home. Amen.



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

Thousands of kids in the foster care system do not have a permanent home. Consider opening your heart and your home to one more of these precious kiddos. If that is too big a commitment, consider volunteering for your community's foster system.



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

Monday, Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40

Tuesday, Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:5-12; Acts 7:44-56

Wednesday, Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38

Thursday, Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12

Friday, Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38

Saturday, Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29