



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 17, 2026
Ascension of Our Lord
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“ *Festal Piece* ” Handel/ arr. George Blake

**** 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. 634

“ All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name! ”


**** 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,

Refrain



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

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

PSALM: Psalm 47

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

Refrain: God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

² **For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**

³ who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

⁴ **who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves. R**

⁵ God has gone up ^lwith a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

⁶ **Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises. R**

⁷ For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

⁸ **God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**

⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted. **R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

** 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: Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 392

“ Alleluia! Sing to Jesus ”

**** 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.

Gracious God, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your church and its leaders in faith, hope, and love, and in sharing the presence of Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Majestic God, your Son Jesus entrusts his ministry to his followers to care for all you have created. Instill in us a commitment to sustainable ecological practices. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand and rules the cosmos. Inspire national and local politicians to lead with equity and fairness, raise up advocates and activists for those seeking justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Guide with your wisdom the work of surgeons, pharmacists, midwives, and all medical specialists, and bring your healing touch to all who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Caring God, your Son Jesus reveals the depths of your love and gathers all people to himself. Accompany us in our work and play to make your presence known in all that we do. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Life-giving God, by his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus destroyed death forever. With thanksgiving we remember those who rest from the labors, assured of your promise of everlasting life. 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

“ There Is a Happy Land ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 686

“ We Give Thee but Thine Own ”

**** 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. 579

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

"An Early Morning March" arr. John Spong

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 17, 2026 – May 24, 2026

- Today** - Adult Forum
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday** - Council Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 6:30 p.m.
- HandBell Choir at 7:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- with Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Taylor Kitzmiller-Bosley
Lector:	Laura Robinson
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Kathy Johnson
Safe Keeper:	Nicole Bosley
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 2026 Altar Flowers are available for dedication.
The sign-up is in the narthex, with several weekends available.



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, John Arnold, Laura and her unborn child

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, Athena, Kella & Baby, Garrett, Sara

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 31

Food Workshop with the Reisingers after worship

Announcements

Food Workshop: Buying Locally and Seasonally
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

As a sort of kickoff to summer, Marty and Mary Reisinger invite everyone to another workshop on food and its impact on the environment. This time, we'll look at the choices we make in buying our food. Does it matter if we buy locally? What happens when crops and animals are produced on a large scale? How do we make the most of food that is only available in certain seasons?

The workshop is free. If you can, bring a dish to share; it would be great if you could incorporate ingredients from local growers. If you learn about this workshop too late to bring food, just come and enjoy the lunch.

Find the letters in matching shapes to spell the words that fit into the blanks of this week's memory verse.

Memory Verse



But you will receive ○○○○○○

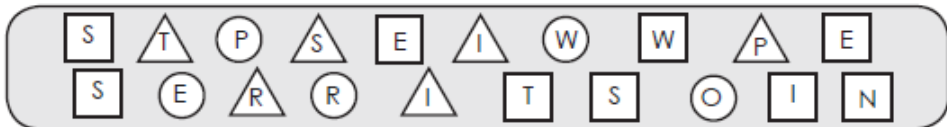
when the Holy ▲▲▲▲▲▲

has come upon you; and you will be my

□□□□□□□□

in Jerusalem, in all Judea and

Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8



Going Up

To ascend means to go up. When Jesus' time on earth was over, he ascended into heaven on a cloud! Elevators go up too! The elevator in this building goes up and down all day long. See if you can figure out where it ends up each time.

If the elevator starts on this floor...	... and goes...	It will end up on the...
1st	Up 7 floors	_____ floor
5th	Down 2 floors	_____ floor
15th	Down 8 floors	_____ floor
3rd	Up 2 floors and then down 4 floors	_____ floor
10th	Down 5 floors and up 7 floors	_____ floor
3rd	Up one floor and down one floor	_____ floor



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 17, 2026, Seventh Sunday of Easter John 17:1-11

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



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

Eternal God, to know you is life. Place within our hearts the Spirit which was in Christ, that we might also live to your glory, just as he did. In the name of our risen Lord we pray. Amen.



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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him." (John 17:1-2)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus prayed for God to love and care for his beloved disciples. His time on earth would soon end, but his love for his friends never would.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Who do you have authority over? Who has authority over you? Which one feels better? How might you use your position (over or under) to bring God's word to life?
- For the littles: When have you had to say goodbye? How did it feel? What does it feel like to be reunited?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant you wisdom to use authority wisely. Amen.



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

Police and peace officers have a measure of authority in your community. How might you support the work they do that keeps your community safe? How might you also encourage police to support the community so that the community feels safe?



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

Monday, May 25, 2020: Psalm 99; Lev. 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Peter 4:1-6

Tuesday, May 26, 2020: Psalm 99; Numbers 16:41-50; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Wednesday, May 27, 2020: Psalm 99; 1 Kings 8:54-65; John 3:31-36

Thursday, May 28, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Ex. 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11

Friday, May 29, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Ex. 19:16-25; Romans 8:14-17

Saturday, May 30, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Ex. 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12