



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.

October 18, 2026
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Rondo Gioioso ” by Johann Wilhelm Hassler

**** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 825

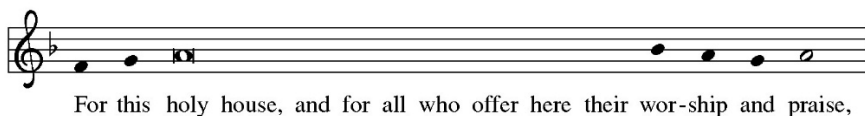
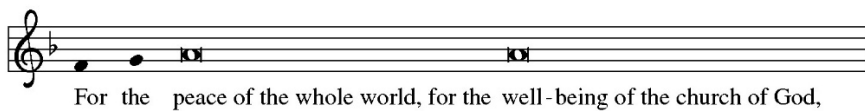
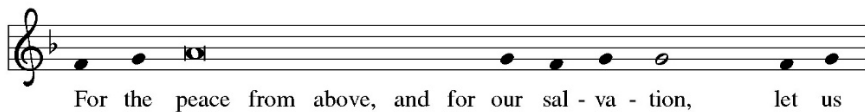
“ You Servants of God ”

**** GREETING**

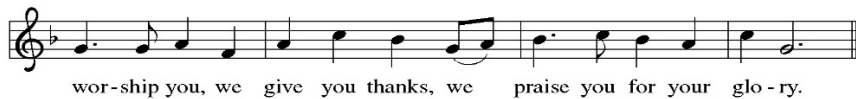
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

** KYRIE



** CANTICLE OF PRAISE



**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-13

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

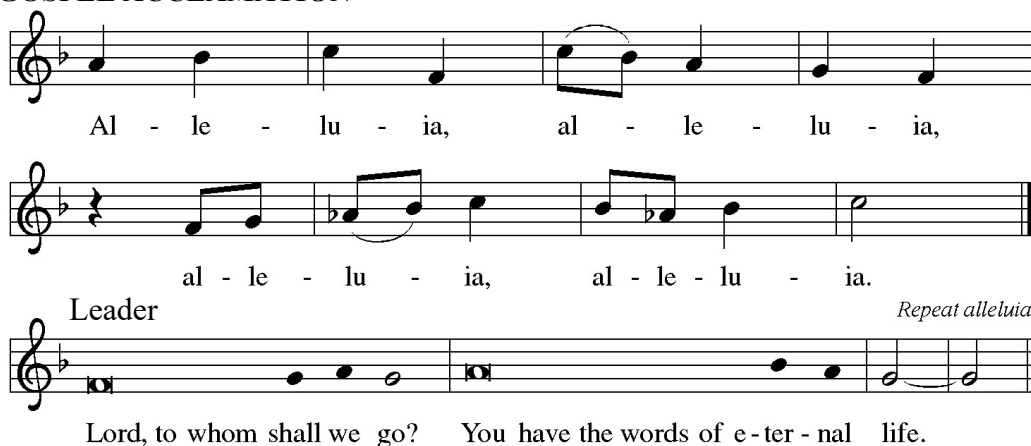
Refrain: Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods. R**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD. R**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth. **R**

SECOND READING: Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Leader *Repeat alleluia*

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

** GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 871

“ Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good ”

**** 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)*

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.
A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF PRAYER SHAWLS AND BLANKETS

L: Today we bless these shawls and blankets - tangible signs of God's love and compassion. These gifts are just a portion of what has been lovingly created and gathered by the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Mark's over these past months.

We honor the hands that made them and the hearts that prayed over them. And we ask God to continue inspiring this ministry of warmth, comfort, and peace, at together we seek to reflect God's love in the world.

C: Loving God, bless those who create these gifts and those who will receive them.

L: Almighty God, you have created each of us in your image and called us to love and care for one another.

Bless these shawls and blankets laid before us today.

Where there is loneliness, let them bring companionship.

Where there is illness, let them bring healing comfort.

Where there is grief, let them bring peace.

Where there is uncertainty or fear, let them bring assurance of your presence.

May all who receive these gifts feel surrounded by love, held in prayer, and strengthened by your Spirit.

C: May these gifts be signs of hope, reminders of your presence, and expressions of your grace.

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 686

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" v.s. 1

**** 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 God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 705

“ God of Grace and God of Glory ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Fanfare and Trumpet Tune ” Purcell/ arr. by Lani Smith

St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

Church Calendar October 18, 2026 – October 25, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
- Stained Glass Workshop after worship
- Tuesday** - **No** 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
- Reformation Party after worship

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Taylor Kitzmiller-Bosley
Lector:	Jim Murray
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Renate Murray
Flower Delivery:	Judy Bertsch
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 Altar Flowers have been placed today by Laura Robinson
in honor of Scott's birthday month!.



Prayer Requests

Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola Bennett, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, Joyce Chaney, Bill & Diana Bachtel, Abe, Fred Meyer, Tom Bingham, Jeff Gilbert, Dave, Ken Bachtel, Tim DeWitt, Carolyn Deems, Brother Denny, Mimi Demaree, George Edwards

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, George Tichinel, Nancy, Jessica, Dave & Michelle, Destiny, Sylvia, Mary-Jane, Cayce, Tom Bosley, Jake Blamble, those affected by hurricane Isaias, Brian Panther

Upcoming Events

- Today**

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls during worship
Stained Glass Workshop after worship
- Saturday, October 25**

Reformation Sunday with Reformation Party after worship
- Sunday, November 1**

All Saints Sunday – please make sure we have the names of loved ones who have died since the last All Saints Sunday.

ST. MARK’S UNIFIED BUDGET REPORT, as of September 30

	2026 <u>Actual</u>	2026 <u>Budget</u>	2025 <u>Actual</u>
YTD Giving	\$165,135	\$172,479	\$157,469
YTD Expenses	<u>\$169,119</u>	<u>\$169,145</u>	<u>\$155,146</u>
Surplus/(Deficiency)	<u>(\$3,984)</u>	<u>\$3,334</u>	<u>\$2,323</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.
- 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.

Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.

Memory Verse



Matthew 22:9

The king sent his servants to find people to come to the banquet. Go on a hunt for words from the memory verse.

Z	G	T	W	E	D	D	I	N	G
S	T	R	E	E	T	S	T	D	G
E	I	A	K	Q	T	K	H	B	R
U	N	K	Q	D	U	F	E	A	Y
O	V	O	M	L	B	N	R	N	O
R	I	P	Y	M	Z	D	E	Q	A
N	T	J	Z	R	L	H	F	U	L
O	E	S	W	U	E	Q	O	E	S
A	S	X	L	S	R	V	R	T	K
M	U	X	T	G	K	J	E	Z	Z



October 18, 2026, 21st Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 22:15-22

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



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

God who reigns with justice, your kingdom is not of this world, and yet we must make our home here. Give us your guidance and wisdom to make good choices and live faithfully as your people on earth. Amen.



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

Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

(Matthew 22:21b-22)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The Pharisees sought to trap Jesus in an argument about taxes. Jesus responded in the only way he could: by putting the onus back on them.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- If you could direct where all your tax dollars are going, where would you spend them?
- How do you reconcile the things of God with the things of humanity? Where are there conflicts of values? Where do they align?
- For the littles: Can you say the alphabet? Can you say the alphabet backward? Jesus came to help get our lives in order, just like the letters of the alphabet.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God set you right. Amen.



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

Do some research to discover how your taxes are spent locally.

Make a list of 3-5 items that you can support. Reflect on how knowing where your money is going can help make paying taxes slightly less... taxing.



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

Monday, Psalm 63:1-8; Exodus 40:34-38; Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

Tuesday, Psalm 63:1-8; Numbers 12:1-9; Revelation 18:21-24

Wednesday, Psalm 63:1-8; Num. 13:1-2, 17-14:9; Matt. 17:22-27

Thursday, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 31:14-22; Titus 1:5-16

Friday, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deut. 32:1-14, 18; Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

Saturday, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; John 5:39-47