

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428

stmarksconshy.org



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 12th, 2017

Assisting with Worship Today:

Presiding Minister	<i>The Rev. Bryan Penman</i>
Director of Music Ministries	<i>Emily Ballentine Erb</i>
Pastoral Intern	<i>Vicar Lenny Duncan</i>
Assisting Minister	<i>Sheldon Erb</i>
Communion Assistant	<i>Joanne Copestick</i>
Reader	<i>Allison Fike</i>
Nursery	<i>Ruggiero Family</i>
Acolyte	<i>Theodora Morley</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Pam Keebler</i>
Ushers	<i>Joe Dryburgh & Bill Portzger</i>
Counters	<i>Susan Dryburgh & Susan Jacovino</i>
Offering Recorder	<i>Jen Schreiter</i>
Fellowship Hour	<i>Penman/Kobi</i>

Altar Flowers *Given by Gerald and Rhea in memory of parents Elizabeth and Norman Leser and John & Kathryn Moore.*

The Rev. Bryan Penman, Pastor
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Dr. Joseph Jacovino, Council President
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Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

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Welcome to St. Mark's, we are so glad you are with us today!

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you have a place here. ***This is Christ's Church. There is a place for you here.*** We are a church that shares a living and daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person - questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Children are always welcome to participate in worship. We invite all children to try to be in worship through the children's sermon (about 20 minutes) and then invite the children, if they want, to head to the nursery, but we love to have the children with us through the whole worship service! To help our youngest worshipers, "Little Lutheran Activity Bags" are located in the rear of the sanctuary which have crayons and worship appropriate coloring pages. We offer a children's bulletin that has puzzles and activities for little worshipers to work on during the service, and we offer a "Soft Space" for infants and toddlers to spread out a bit in during worship. Worshiping with children is important to us, and so we hope you find these things helpful so that you may worship together as a family.

Restrooms are located through the back left – exit the sanctuary, go up the stairs, through the first room to the end of the hallway. If you need assistance, please see the attendants (ushers) at the back of the sanctuary.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are welcome to be used to Post, Tweet and Instagram the Good News you hear today, but we kindly ask you to turn the sound off on them so that they do not cause a distraction to other worshipers.

Our team of ushers is available throughout the service to be of any assistance you might need. Assistive Listening devices are available. Please see an usher.

Are you new or visiting St. Mark's? If you would like to receive more information about St. Mark's, we have several methods where you can leave your information with us. At the entry ways to the sanctuary, you will find our guest books in which you can leave your name and contact information, or in the pews we have blue cards that you can fill and place in the offering plate, or if you like, you can sign our electronic guest book. We'd be delighted to keep you informed about the many events and opportunities here at St. Mark's and hope you will join us again. For the electronic book, open your mobile device to the bar code scanner and take a picture of this square QR code; it will take you to our electronic guest book.



Instructions

Leader says

We all say together

+ Gathering +

The Holy Spirit gathers us together for worship

Introduction

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

Prelude



Schmucke dich

setting by Georg Philipp Telemann

Invocation

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who calls us into an everlasting hope,
who guides us to springs of the water of life,
who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.
Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

One with the communion of saints in all times and places,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

O God, our merciful redeemer,
**we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.
We fail to see you in our neighbor's face.
We turn our ears from voices that cry out.
We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.
In your great mercy, forgive our sin
and strengthen us for service to all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for you,
and for ✚ his sake,
God forgives you all your sin.
Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad,
Beloved people of God.
Amen.

**Opening
Hymn**
ELW 625

Come, We That Love the Lord
We're Marching to Zion



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti-ful, beau - ti-ful Zi - on:



we're march-ing up-ward to Zi - on, the beau-ti-ful cit-y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

**Apostolic
Greeting**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other as we begin a time of prayer

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

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The top staff is labeled 'Leader' and contains a melodic line starting with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, and ending with a quarter rest. The bottom staff is labeled 'Assembly' and contains a line of whole rests for the first four measures, followed by a melodic line starting with a quarter note G4, then quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and ending with a quarter rest.

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system continues the Assembly part from the previous system. The top staff has whole rests for the first four measures, followed by a melodic line starting with a quarter note G4, then quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and ending with a quarter rest. The bottom staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note G4, then quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and ending with a quarter rest.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Detailed description: This system features a melodic line in the top staff starting with a quarter note G4, then quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, and ending with a quarter rest. The bottom staff contains a line of whole rests.

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system features a melodic line in the top staff starting with a quarter note G4, then a quarter rest, followed by whole rests for the next three measures, and ending with a melodic line starting with a quarter note G4, then quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and ending with a quarter rest. The bottom staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note G4, then quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and ending with a quarter rest.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Canticle of Praise

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



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



2 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.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 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. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

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

**Prayer of
the Day**

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Assembly may be seated

+ Word +

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, song and prayer

First Lesson

Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.

A Reading from the book of Amos,

⁵Thus ¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmsody

Psalm 70

You are my help - er and my de - liv - er - er;

O LORD, do not tar - ry.

¹Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;

O Lord, make | haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back
and | be disgraced. R**

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is
the Lord!”**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry. **R**

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians
4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

A reading from the 1st letter to the Thessalonians,

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel

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 Reading

*Matthew 25:1-
13*

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

The assembly may be seated.

**Children's
Sermon**

Children are invited forward for a short lesson before the sermon. After the children's sermon, the children are invited to return to their seats with their parents or leave to spend time in the nursery..

Sermon

Vicar Lenny Duncan

**Hymn of
the Day**

ELW 488



Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing; hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' - n - ly,
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Apostles Creed

Together let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles Creed.
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 the People

*Prayers reflect the
wideness of God's
mercy for the
whole world.*

*The Assisting Minister invites us into prayer.
The Assembly may be seated.*

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness
and mercy, let us pray with people of
every time and place.

Each portion of the prayers ends with:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with
these words:*

Receive these prayers and the hopes and
concerns of our hearts, O God, as we
entrust into your loving care all for whom
we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For our friends and family:

*Don Dunn, Katie Gresh, Donnie, Jenny,
Dottie Woodring, Ann Beatty, Dawn
W., Linda Jara, John Holdsworth, the
Murray family, Sharon, Megan, Jenny,
Tara, and Mike.*

We give thanks for:

Pertuch family.

We pray for those in grief:

*First Baptist Church of
Sutherland Texas and their
families and friends.*

Sharing of the Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

+ Meal +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

An offering is gathered to support the mission of the church. Funds gathered today will help sustain our ministry efforts at St. Mark's, support the wider national church and help those in need.

During the month of November, we take up a special collection for Lutheran World Relief as they continue to aide countries and communities in need throughout the world. Founded by Lutherans in the United States, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, LWR exists so that U.S. Lutherans may serve their neighbors overseas who face poverty, injustice and human suffering. Consistent with the Lutheran tradition, we work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality.

Offertory

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

arr. Greg Gilpin

Adult Choir

Offertory Canticle

The assembly stands as the gifts and offerings are brought forward

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**Offertory
Prayer**

Creator God,
you made everything, and you provide for every need.
The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you.
As we eat and drink with thanksgiving,
fill us with your love;
let that love flow through us to others;
and join us to the saints before us
in a holy and boundless communion;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Great
Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

Dialogue

We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise

Proper Preface

The Presiding Minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at
all times and in all places offer thanks . . . We praise your
name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Words of
Institution*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit we are bold to pray in the words
our Savior taught us,

**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.**

The Assembly may be seated.

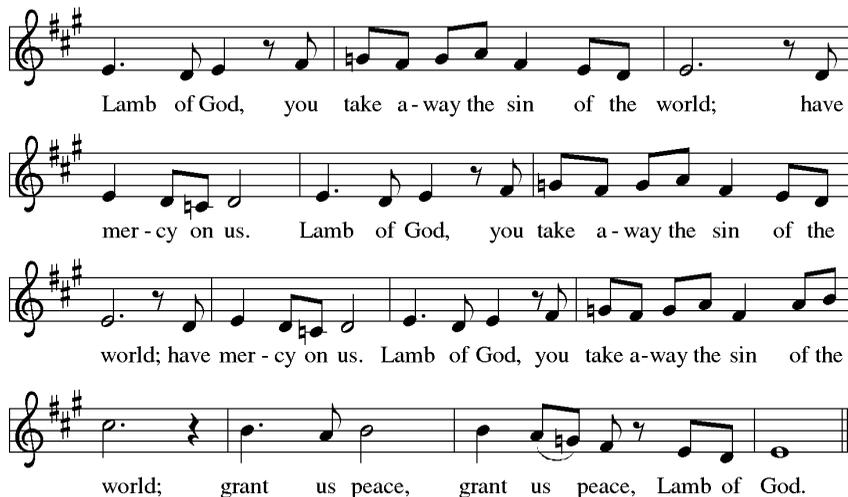
**Invitation to
Communion**

*Here at St. Mark's we invite all people to the Lord's Table no matter where you are
on your faith journey. This is Christ present for you – freely offered in bread and
wine – all are welcome to commune. Children and their families going to Faith
Formation are invited to the altar rail first.*

Hunger no more. Thirst no more.
Come to the banquet of life.

The bread may be broken for the communion

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution of Communion

The assembly will be guided up to the Altar Rail by the Ushers where you may stand or kneel. Bread and Wine are used for our communion, but gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available so that all may commune.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond -- Amen.

When you have finished communing you are invited to return to your seat by the side aisle and join in singing the communion hymns printed in the bulletin.

Communion Hymn

ELW 494

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.
Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

**Communion
Hymn**

ELW 262

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows a two-staff musical score for the hymn 'Wait for the Lord'. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first system of music corresponds to the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and the second system to 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The music consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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**Post
Communion
Blessing**

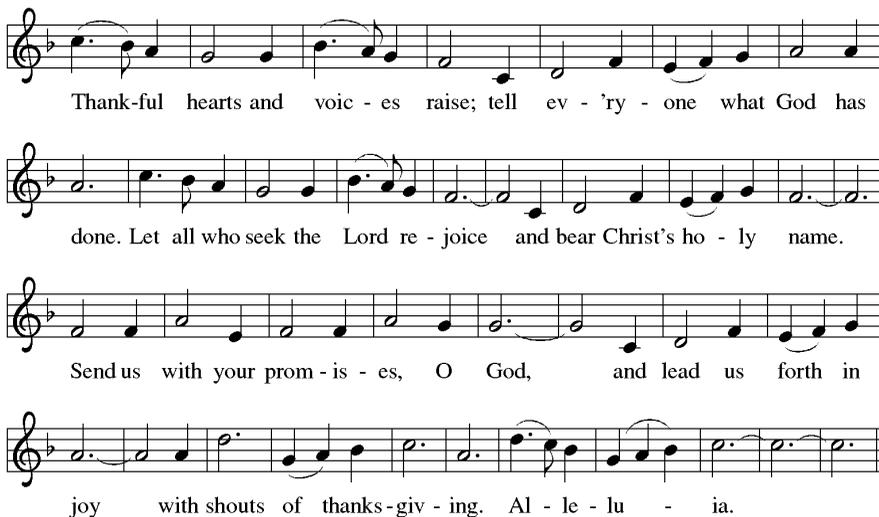
The assembly stands

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.



Post Communion Canticle



Thank-ful hearts and voice - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Post Communion Prayer

Sovereign God,
in this meal you give us a foretaste
of the great feast to come.
Keep us faithful to you,
that we, with all your saints,
may at length celebrate
the marriage feast of the Lamb,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

+ Sending +

The Spirit sends us into the world to serve

Announcements *Ways for you to be sent to do God's work this week with your hands.
Announcements are made behalf of the community*

Blessing

The love of God surround you;
the grace of ✝ Christ release you;
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,
now and forevermore.
Amen.

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Dismissal Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Doxology*

arr. Mark Hayes

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Faith Formation Ministry Announcements:

Ways you can develop your faith life, learn about God and develop as disciples

Teachers for young people Faith Formation

This year we are utilizing SignUpGenius to facilitate teacher signups for our young person class. Each week we would love to have a leader for the older kids, younger kids and a helping hand. Leading a class means that you have read the curriculum and help guide the students in discussing the video and bible story and possibly an activity if time allows. The curriculum is provided for you by email in advance of the lesson. To access the SignUpGenius see the weekly pastor's email or visit our website under faith formation tab. Upcoming needs:

- Helping Hand 11/19
- Younger Group and Helping Hand 11/29
- Helping Hand 12/3

Sign up for Advent Devotionals

Each devotional includes a Bible verse, ideas for family activities, and discussion questions. We know this is a busy season, so the devotionals can be completed in 5 minutes or less--or while you are on-the-go with your family! For those with electronic copies of the bulletin ([CLICK HERE](#)) to sign up. Otherwise send your name and email to Pastor and he will sign you up for the season.

Tweener's Bible Study

We head into our final stretch this month with our "Together by Grace Book" with our final study session on Tuesday November 21st at 7pm. We will explore the last few chapters of the book "Being Lutheran Together in a Wider World" and "Voices and Places" as we wrap up our study. Thanks to all who have been part of the conversations as we have come to a deeper awareness of our Lutheran traditions, our heritage of worship and service, and our global influence. Tweener's will take a break for the holiday's but will be back in the new year with a new study, so be on the lookout for our next session in the coming months.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult faith formation meets *after worship during fellowship hour*. Grab a snack and join us for discussion of the lectionary lesson of the day and share your insight and thoughts of what we heard in worship. Also once a month, we are working on having a theme session where we will have guests come in to discuss some of the programs within the ELCA such as the refugee program; adoption; human sexuality and the church. Hope to see you in Faith Formation!

Faith Formation on Sunday Mornings

Children's Faith Formation starts at 10:15-11:30am upstairs. We do this in light of our baptismal promises to teach our young ones about faith. This is always an incredibly exciting time to share the rich tradition of the Gospel with our little ones, and our older ones.

Pastor's weekly email

Pastor sends out a weekly message with reflections on the coming Sunday's readings as well as announcements upcoming during the week at church. To sign up for this email check out our homepage www.stmarksconshy.org to enter your email address or let Pastor know to add you to the list.

Worship Ministry Announcements:

Learn about worship opportunities here at St. Mark's

Christmas Flower orders

It's time to get your Christmas Flower orders in!! Plants are \$12.00 and order forms can be found in the back of the sanctuary. Please indicate if you would like to take your Poinsettia plants or if you would like them donated to a shut-in. Also include your memorial language for printing in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. All orders must be received by Sunday December 10th

Advent is Coming and so is Advent Family Night

The First Sunday in Advent this year will be November 29th (and yes, it's a week early, then the rest of some churches, but it's so we can get all 4 Sundays of Advent in before Christmas Eve which is a Sunday this year). On Friday December 8th @ 5:30pm we will host our Advent Family night at the church. Families and individuals are invited to join us as we make our Chrismons for the Christmas tree this year, enjoy dinner together. Parents are invited to leave kids at the church following dinner if they need to sneak out to do a little (ahem) shopping and return at 8pm to pick up their kids.

No Dinner Church on Thanksgiving

We continue our tradition of Dinner Church on Thursday evenings with time for fellowship, meal and worship. HOWEVER, we will not be holding Dinner church on November 23rd for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

First Communion Check In

Today we will check in with our First Communion students for an update on how they are doing with their study. We will meet following faith formation upstairs.

Dinner Church @ 6PM on Thursdays

“Dinner Church” has great roots in the Christian tradition. Meals feature prominently in our great tradition of faith, from pot lucks, to picnics, to the Holy Supper we share in communion – food plays a central role in who we are as Christians. We like to say that we are also “fed” by the experience of worship, so Dinner Church seeks to feed you both spiritually and physically Dinner Church is a very relaxed worship experience, some come right from work, some right from the gym, some from just picking the kids up. No matter where you are on your faith journey you are welcome here at Dinner Church.

Altar Flower Sponsorship

We have openings for Altar Flowers on December 31st if you are interested in signing up for these dates, please call the office 610.828.0581 or email Vicar Lenny – vicar@stmarksconshy.org. Cost is \$40.00 for the week and please indicate if you would like to keep this a yearly memorial, or just a memorial for this year..

Service Ministry Announcements:

Learn about ways you can do God's work with our hands

Special Collection Envelope: Lutheran World Relief

Our wider network of Lutherans across the globe helps to transform developing countries and communities by building up and supporting the work of bringing people out of poverty. Our efforts at Lutheran World Relief provide a host of services, from economic development, clean drinking water, health services, disaster response, sheltering, schooling, and food assistance to those in need across the world. LWR helps us take seriously our command to “love God, and love neighbor.”

Thanksgiving Baskets for Families in Need

Thank you to the folks that brought personal items for Colonial Neighborhood Council during the month of October and for continuing to bring non-perishable food items and paper products. We will be collecting 100 cans of cream of mushroom soup for the Thanksgiving baskets given out by CNC to local families in need. Please have the soup to St. Marks by Sunday, November 12th so that they can get to CNC in time to prepare the baskets.

A House for Worship: Capital Appeal

As we find ourselves getting back into the routine for fall, a reminder of our ongoing Capital Appeal is still underway. At this point we have raised over \$13,600 and are well on our way to our \$70,000 goal. At the congregational meeting in June we voted to begin a process to collect funds for repairs and improvements to our sanctuary space; masonry work on our stained glass windows, plaster repair, painting the interior of the sanctuary, exterior trim painting, and replacing the carpet in the sanctuary. *With the support of our whole community we can make this first phase a reality this year. As always, thank you for all you do to support the ministries of St. Mark's.*

Fall Stewardship Drive: Discovering your unique S.H.A.P.E.

This week launches our multi-week Stewardship Campaign “S.H.A.P.E.” Each week we will discover and discern how God has uniquely gifted us for ministry in the world. Through a process of surveys and reflections we will discover our Spiritual Gifts, what we have Heart/Passions for, affirm our Abilities, learn about our Personalities, and reflect on our Experiences that shape our story. At the end of the survey process we will spend time in “cottage meetings” as we discuss and discern future directions for ministries in our key ministry areas of Worship, Service, Fellowship & Evangelism, and Faith Formation. Most of the survey will be electronic in nature, but if you would like a printed copy of the materials – they are available in the rear of the sanctuary.

We hope to have the WHOLE congregation complete this process and we are inviting people to use the survey as a devotional in their households over the next few weeks as we discover our unique SHAPE and how it fits into the ministry of St. Mark's.

Collection Items for local food bank

We support the work of feeding those in need in our community by collecting weekly items for our local food bank run by our friends over at Colonial Neighborhood Council. The food pantry is always in need of paper products (paper towels, toilet paper and toiletry items) and shelf stable meals like Chef Boyardee and boxes of Cereal. Baskets are located at the rear of the sanctuary to collect items that will be taken over each week to the food bank.

Download our new electronic giving app

You can now give electronically through the "Give+" app. Simply search for "give+" in either google or apple app store, set up a login, search for St. Mark's Lutheran church and set up either a onetime gift, or recurring payments. It's that easy! Look for other ways to give in the coming weeks and months as we continue to expand the ways you can generously support the ministries of St. Mark's.

Evangelism / Fellowship Ministry Announcements:

Learn about ways that you can help spread the "Good News"

Save the Date: Christmas Caroling in Conshy

St Mark's will host its annual Christmas Caroling Night to be held on 12/22/2017. Please invite friends and family to join in the caroling festivities, the more the merrier. All planning to Carol should plan on meeting at St. Mark's between 5:30 and 6:00 PM at which time further directions will be given depending on the level of participation.

A Message from Presiding Bishop Eaton

As I write this the Gulf Coast and Florida are starting the long recovery after [hurricanes](#) Harvey and Irma; Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are mostly without electricity and running low on water, food, medicine and gasoline after Hurricane Maria. All of us are reeling from the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas. There are no words. We are stunned almost to the point of numbness.

We try to make sense out of the incomprehensible. It's climate change. It's not climate change. We need more stringent gun control. We need to protect the Second Amendment. The federal government doesn't do enough. The local government doesn't do enough. Soon we're talking *at* each other, not *to*each other.

Natural disasters feel chaotic and capricious. The weather service has gotten pretty sophisticated in predicting paths of hurricanes but is not completely accurate. Tornadoes strike with little warning. Is this just the way of the natural world, or is God visiting judgment upon us? There is human involvement that can make natural disasters more damaging.

The youth group in the last parish I served went on a work-week each summer. We did cleanup and rebuilding after tornadoes, floods and hurricanes in partnership with [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. I guarantee that it was the poor whose homes were in the floodplain, who did not have the resources to rebuild and had to depend on volunteer labor.

Evil perpetrated by human beings is a great mystery. How can a good and just God allow evil? Why would a man open fire on concertgoers, killing 59 and wounding more than 500? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do good things happen to bad people? There have been various theodicies trying to make sense of this throughout human existence. I confess to you that I have no conclusive answer to these questions, except that we live in a broken world. Paul wrote: “The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now ...” ([Romans 8:21-22](#)). Though God created the heavens and the earth and declared the creation good, this is no longer a perfect world. Paul also wrote: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” ([Philippians 4:4-7](#)).

Both of Paul’s assertions are true. We live in a broken world—natural and human made, marred by human sin—and we rejoice in the Lord who is near and guards us with God’s peace. Both of Paul’s assertions are true. We live in a broken world—natural and human made, marred by human sin—and we rejoice in the Lord who is near and guards us with God’s peace. Bishop Terry Brandt of the [Eastern North Dakota Synod](#) reminded us of this truth and this tension in his sermon to the Conference of Bishops the morning after the Las Vegas shooting. And he reminded us that when Paul was doing all that rejoicing, he was doing it from prison, awaiting execution after already enduring beatings, shipwreck, hunger and thirst. I wouldn’t describe Paul as perky, but the joy he found in Jesus made him able to live in hope and believe in life even in the face of despair and death.

So, dear church, we pray and lament and trust and hope. We stake our lives on the belief that God’s life, hope and love are not platitudes, but the truth. We are moved to action and reconciliation. And when the next disaster or massacre happens, we do not lose hope because the Crucified One has been raised from the dead.

This Week @ St. Mark's:

<i>Monday</i> 2-8pm-Office Hours		6am - Meals on Wheels 7pm – Boy Scouts
<i>Tuesday</i> 10am-2pm- Office Hours	7pm-Council Meeting	6am – Meals on Wheels 7pm – Cub Scouts
<i>Wednesday</i> Office Closed	Bishops Convocation	6am – Meals on Wheels
<i>Thursday</i> 2-8pm-Office Hours	Bishop's Convocation 6pm – Dinner Church 7pm-Adult Choir 7:45pm-Bell Choir	6am – Meals on Wheels
<i>Friday</i> 10am-2pm-Office Hours	Bishop's Convocation	6am – Meals on Wheels 6:30pm – AA / Al-Anon
<i>Saturday</i>		7pm – AA Group
<i>Sunday</i>	9:30am – Worship Service 10:15am- Faith Formation 10:30am – Fellowship Hour	7pm – Venture Crew

Assisting with Worship Next Sunday:

Assisting Minister	<i>Theodora Morley</i>
Communion	<i>Sheldon Erb</i>
Assistant	
Reader	<i>Joanne Copestick</i>
Nursery	<i>Yakeley Family</i>
Acolyte	<i>Jacob Fazzeri</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Jen Schreiter</i>
Ushers	<i>Erin Orekar & George Pokalo</i>
Counters	<i>Matt Fiore & Lara Hoffman</i>
Offering Recorder	<i>Nate Ramsden</i>
Fellowship Hour	<i>Fike</i>

Readings for next week:

[**Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**](#)

The day of the Lord

[**Psalm 90:1-8 \[9-11\] 12**](#)

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

[**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**](#)

Be alert for the day of the Lord

[**Matthew 25:14-30**](#)

The story of the slaves entrusted with talents