

St Mark Lutheran Church

Uniting in Worship + Growing in Wisdom + Serving in Love: to embrace all in response to God.

Service of Holy Communion



Welcome to this divine service of worship!

Plain font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by worship leaders.

Bold font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by the congregation.

The obelisk (†) invites the congregation to stand, and the double obelisk (‡) to sit or kneel, as it is able.

October 4, 2026: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am & 11:00am

Commemoration of St Francis of Assisi (circa 1182 – October 3, 1226)

Prelude: *Verborgenheit* (9:00)

Hugo Wolf

There's Wideness in God's Mercy (11:00)

Mark Schweizer

Preparation for Worship

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

†Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

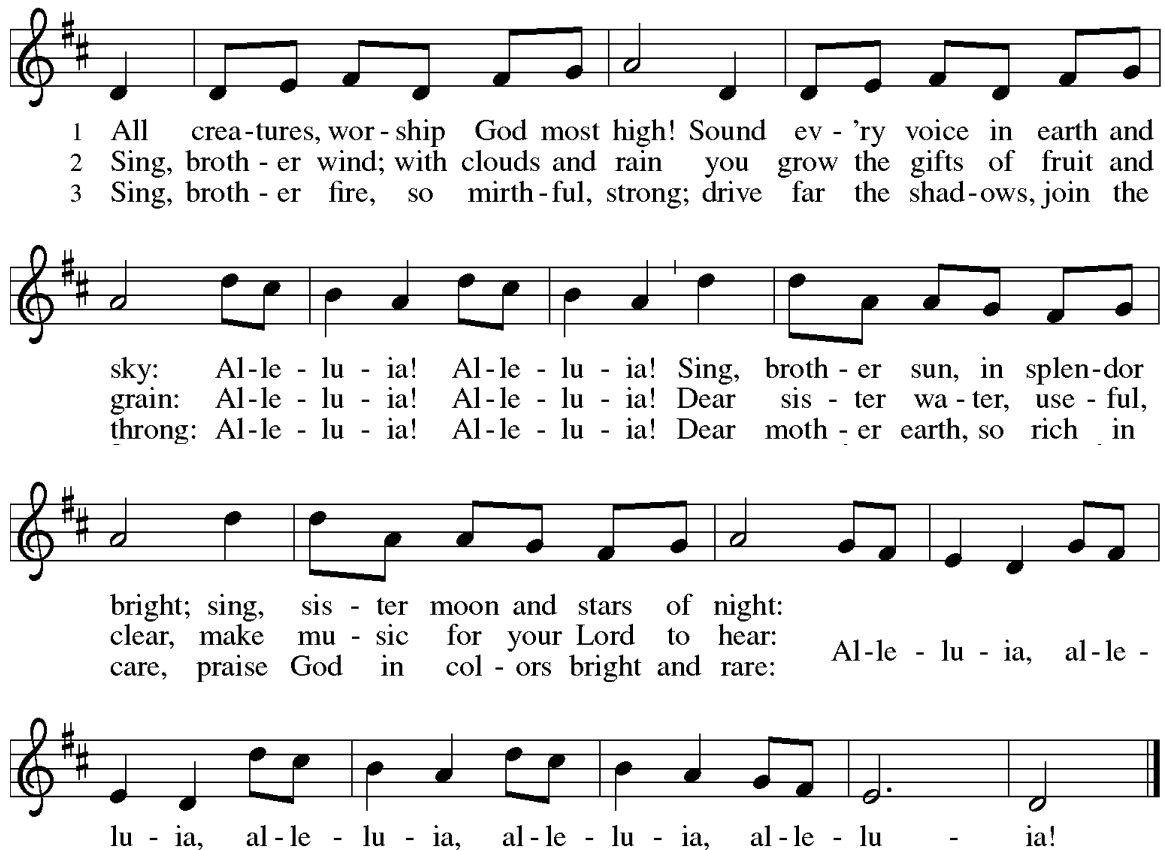
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

‡ Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

†Hymn: **All Creatures, Worship God Most High!**

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226
Tune: LASST UNS ERFRUEN, Köln, 1623



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the

sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in

bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

†Greeting & Gloria

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.**



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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

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

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
 you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

†Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

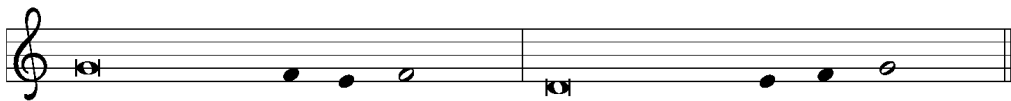
A reading from Isaiah:

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalm 80:7-15*



Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.
You cleared the ground for it; it took root and | filled the land.
The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.
You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches | to the river.**

Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?
The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

**Turn now, O God of hosts, look | down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right | hand has planted.**

Second Reading: *Philippians 3:4b-14*

A reading from Philippians:

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

†Gospel Acclamation



†Gospel: *Matthew 21:33-46*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and

it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Joel Neubauer

†Hymn: ***Make Me a Channel of Your Peace***

Text: Sebastian Temple

Tune: PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS, Sebastian Temple

stanzas 1-2, all; stanza 3 (opposite page): choir; stanza 4: all

1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.

Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,
Last time to coda ☩

where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re - I

and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

continues with choir stanza on opposite page →

☩ Coda

ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

2

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda

loved as to love with all my soul.

← congregation turns back for stanza 4

A Note on Today's Hymns in Worship

Saint Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died eight hundred years ago on October 3, 1226. Francis is credited as the author and/or inspiration of the hymn texts we sing today.

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant in Italy, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve economically poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching while, anecdotally, “using words if necessary.” Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God’s creation — and his piety often remembers that concern and love for all our neighbors is to include not only humans, but all of God’s created beings.

As the ecumenical church around the world recently accepted the Feast of Creation in Christ onto our liturgical calendars for September 1, we also may begin to consider a new season of the church year extending to this commemoration of Saint Francis and the gospel’s grace for all creation — a season aptly being considered as “Creationtide.” The linking of the ecumenical church from an eastern Christian festival (September 1) to a western Christian commemoration (October 4) helps bridge a closer unity in Christ among Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant liturgical traditions. In this way we confess the faith of the Apostles while we share in our gospel response to God’s goodness for earth and all creatures.

†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

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

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts including.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with 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.***

†Peace and Offering Prayer

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Our offering is given for the mission of the church, and caring for those in need. Offerings may be shared in the plates at the doors of the sanctuary or online by using this QR code with your smart device. As partners in ministry, we thank God for our shared commitment!

A musical score for a hymn, consisting of five staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

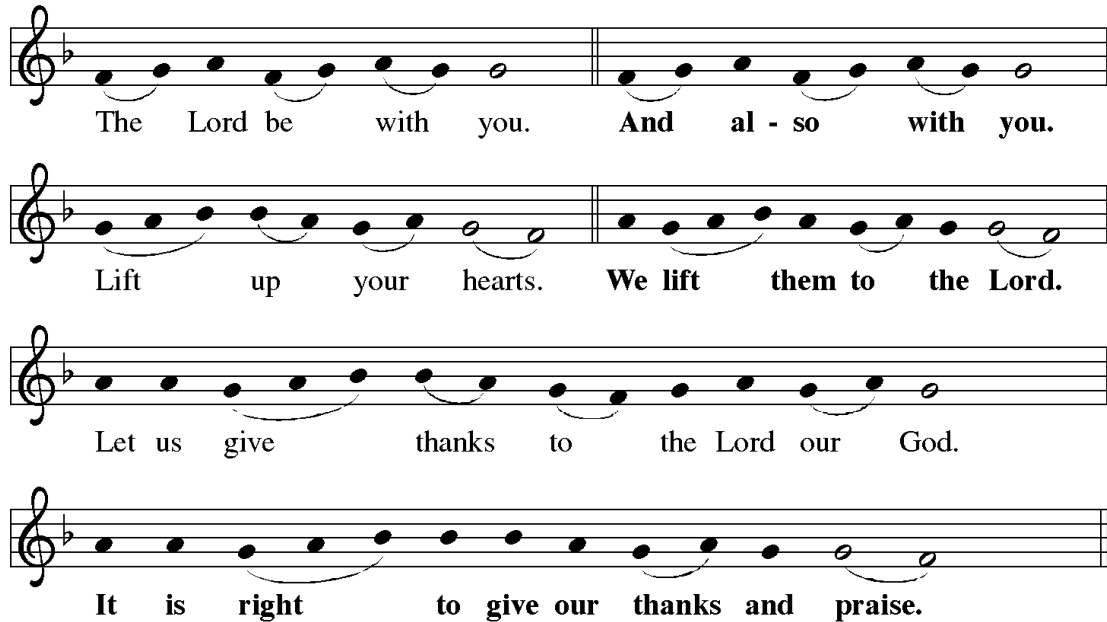
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be

fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

†Great Thanksgiving (*Dialogue, Preface, Sanctus, Eucharistic and Lord's Prayers*)



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

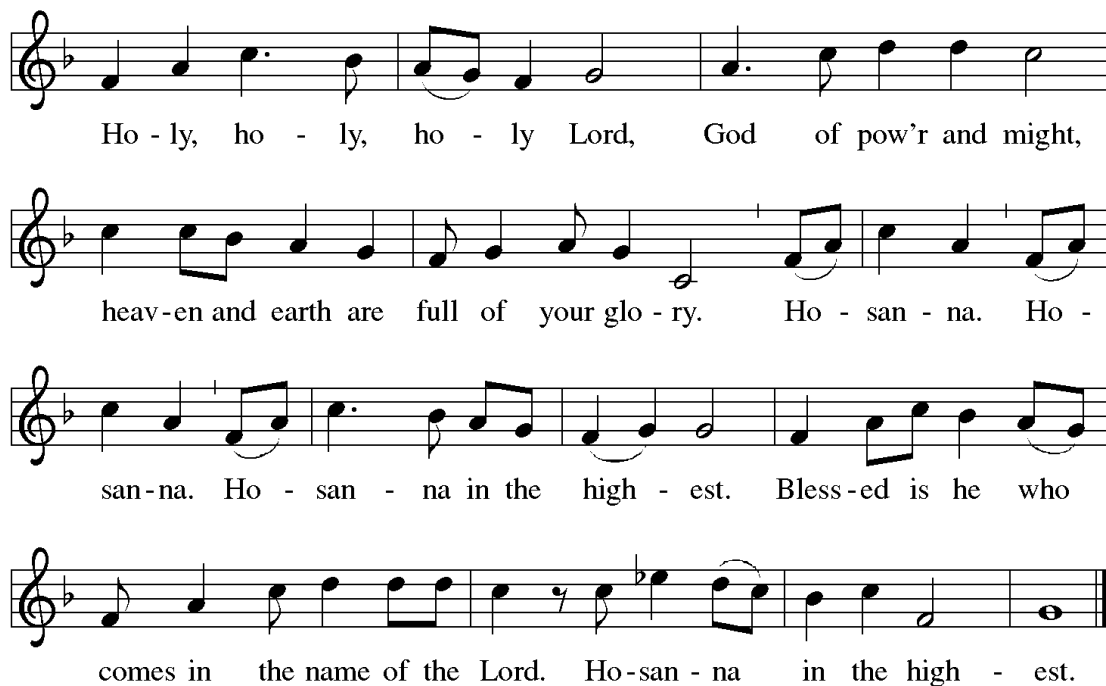
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and half notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are more varied than in the first section, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Poets have held this truth to be self-evident,
that all peoples are created equals, endowed by you, Nature's God, our Creator,
with unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
Your covenant people have long blessed you,
O Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine and who draws forth bread from the land.
So also has your gospel revealed that you are worthy, our Lord and God,
to hold glory and honor and power, for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.

Still and ever your Messiah teaches your most creative love for a new creation
as, in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks,
broke it and gave it for them to eat, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

Remembering Christ Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension,
we pray to hear our Savior say, "See, I am making all things new!"
Come, Creator Christ.

Descend, O dove of Sacred Spirit, on these gifts of bread and wine
that we may receive Jesus' body and blood in, with and under them.
Come, Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life.

Join our thanks with that of rock and water, breeze and beast, plant and planet
to honor and glorify Our Father through, with and in Christ, in unity with you:
One God, our Creator, in your holy Church both now and forever. **Amen.**

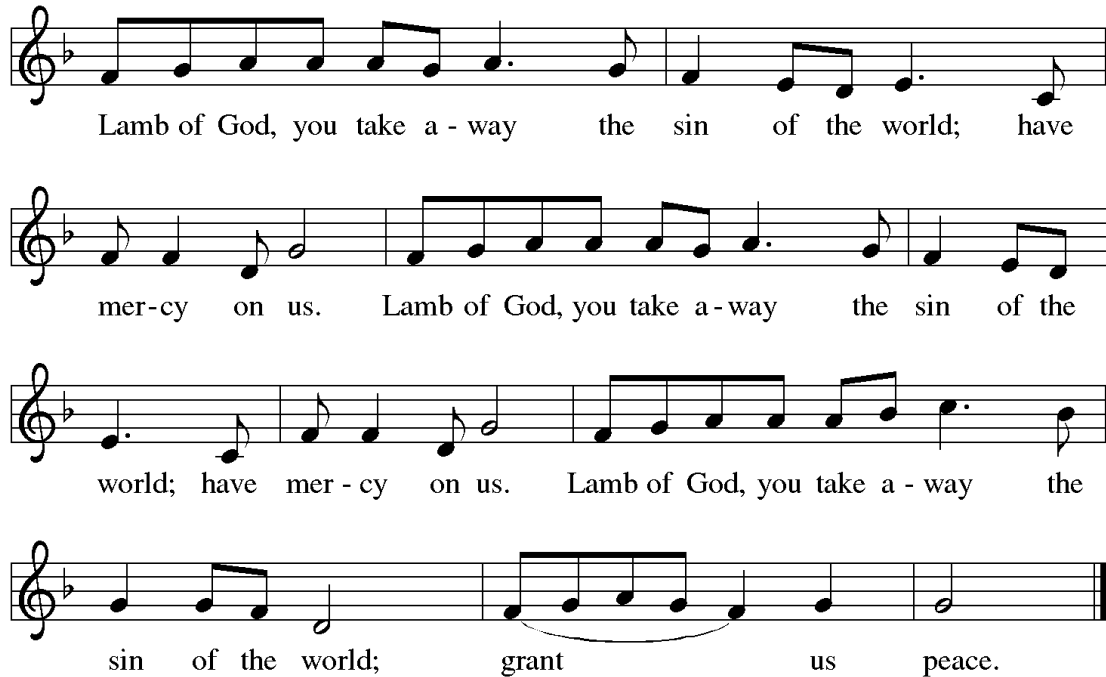
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

†Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei



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.

Communion — *please see back cover for a note on receiving Holy Communion.*

Communion Music: *I Lift My Soul*

William Miller

†Post Communion Blessing

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

†Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful-filled.

My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men

†Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD smile on you and be gracious unto you;
the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

†Hymn: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226
Tune: LASST UNS ERFRUEN, Köln, 1623

4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:
lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

†Dismissal — *from Acts 20:32*

And now, I give you into the care of God and the word of God's grace, which is able to make you strong and to give you your heritage among all the saints. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Duke Street* (9:00)

Blues from "An American in Paris" (11:00)

Charles Callahan

George Gershwin, arr Michele Mangani

A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice eucharistic hospitality. We invite all baptized Christians to receive Christ's body and blood; all are welcome to receive God's blessing. We trust "a person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,' is really worthy and well prepared" to receive this sacrament.

We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After cleansing hands, our pastor dips the host in the cup to offer the bread and wine together; for the host without wine, please ask the pastor or lay a hand on your chest. Christ is fully present in each of the elements.

Communicants come forward to the feast in continuous procession. Christ is for you.

PJ's reflection on the Gospel

Christ Jesus never said the father'd kill
those wretches who themselves cast down to death
the father's son; it's we who say he will—
and we who fear our God will choke our breath
if, similarly, God is proved to be
in some way like this vineyard owner of
our parable preceding Calvary.
If God is vengeance, how is God too Love?
Christ Jesus wonders if we haven't learned,
when heaven and humanity face grief,
our resurrection's more what both have yearned
to hold than vengeance for our hurts' relief.
Love kills no time with petty vengeance when
a life rejected might be raised again.

St Mark Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Virginia is located on the historic lands of the Powhatan Confederacy (Tsenacommacah) and its ancestral peoples; we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have dwelled here and who continue to call this land their home.

St Mark Lutheran Church
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