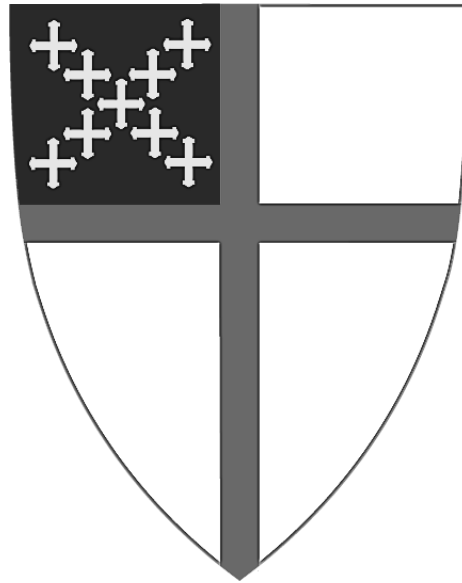


st. mark's episcopal church



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 18
September 6, 2026

~We strive to love and serve all people in the spirit of Jesus Christ~

St. Mark's is an open, loving family of God guided by Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. We encourage spiritual growth while supporting diversity and the freedom to be yourself. We offer God's joy, hope, and healing to all. We welcome all persons, and we affirm that full participation in the life and leadership of St. Mark's Church is accorded to all, regardless of race, color, sex, ethnic or national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disabilities, or age.

27 EAST CHICAGO
COLDWATER, MICHIGAN 49036-1605
PHONE: (517) 278-5752 • FAX: (517) 279-7765
E-MAIL: saintmarkschurch@gmail.com

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK ARE GIVEN BY KRISTIN, LUKE, & MCKENNA MARTEEN,
IN MEMORY OF DON & DORIS SWEET

The Word of God

Please rise, in body or spirit, as you are able

ENTRANCE HYMN

(H 518)

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Priest Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

3

To God be the glo - ry, all glo - ry in the
Lord Je - sus, the on - ly be - got - ten of the

high - est and peace to his peo - ple who dwell here be - low, Our
Fa - ther we praise and we bless you, the Son and the Lamb. The

hea - v'n - ly Fa - ther, our Lord, and our sov - 'reign, to
sin of the world you have tak - en up - on you, have

you, the Al - migh - ty, our prai - ses be - stow. We wor ship and a -
mer - cy up - on us, the Great I AM. For ho - ly, you

do re you, we bow here be - fore you with grate - ful thanks - gi - ving, our
meet us, yet low - ly you greet us, the Lord in the high est, the

song let us raise. All glo - ry and hon - our and glad a - do -
Ho - ly One. All glo - ry to the Fath - er, the Son and the

- ra - tion to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.
Spi - rit, From a - ges ev - er - last - ing, the Three in One.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Lion's Roar kids program is on break during the summer.
There are quiet activities for kids at the back of the church.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

EXODUS 12:1-14

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

¹ Hallelujah!
Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
² **Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; ***
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
³ Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
⁴ **For the Lord takes pleasure in his people ***
and adorns the poor with victory.
⁵ Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
⁶ **Let the praises of God be in their throat ***
and a two-edged sword in their hand;
⁷ To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
⁸ **To bind their kings in chains ***
and their nobles with links of iron;
⁹ To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!



A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

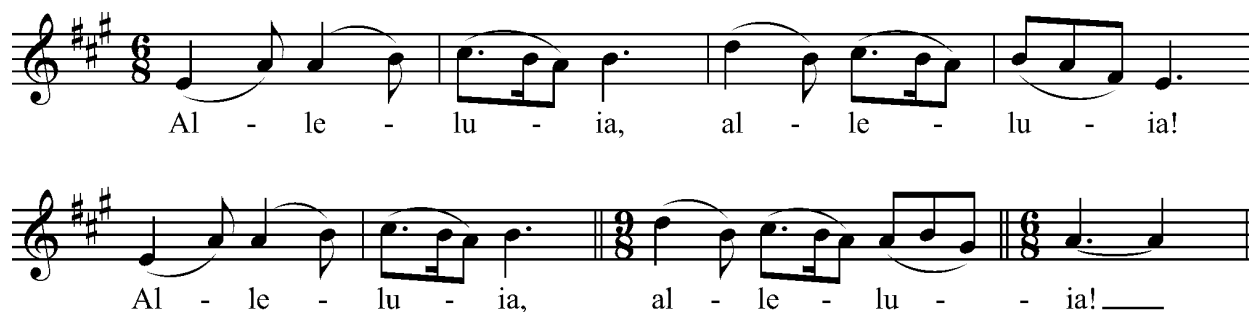
People **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM:

ANCIENT WORDS (LYNN DESHAZO)

LIZ MOWAN

(MHSO 20)



Words and Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker (b.1947) © 1985 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213 [www.ocp.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON



Please rise, in body or spirit, as you are able.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Let us pray for the Church and the world, saying “Hear our prayer.”

At this time of changing seasons, we thank you, O Lord, for the beauty of our earth.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church in all times and places. Strengthen our faith as we seek to do your will and become more and more your people.

Hear our prayer.

Guide the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Hear our prayer.

Grant that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that we may live in justice and peace.

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor.

Hear our prayer.

O God, the strength of those who labor, grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil.

Hear our prayer.

Remember, O Lord, in mercy all those who suffer or are in any trouble, knowing that you do not willingly afflict or grieve us.

Hear our prayer.

Grant your blessing to all who have died in the hope of resurrection; grant them rest from their labors.

Hear our prayer.

I invite any other prayers of intercession or thanksgiving, silently or aloud.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Please bow or kneel, in body or spirit, as you are able.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

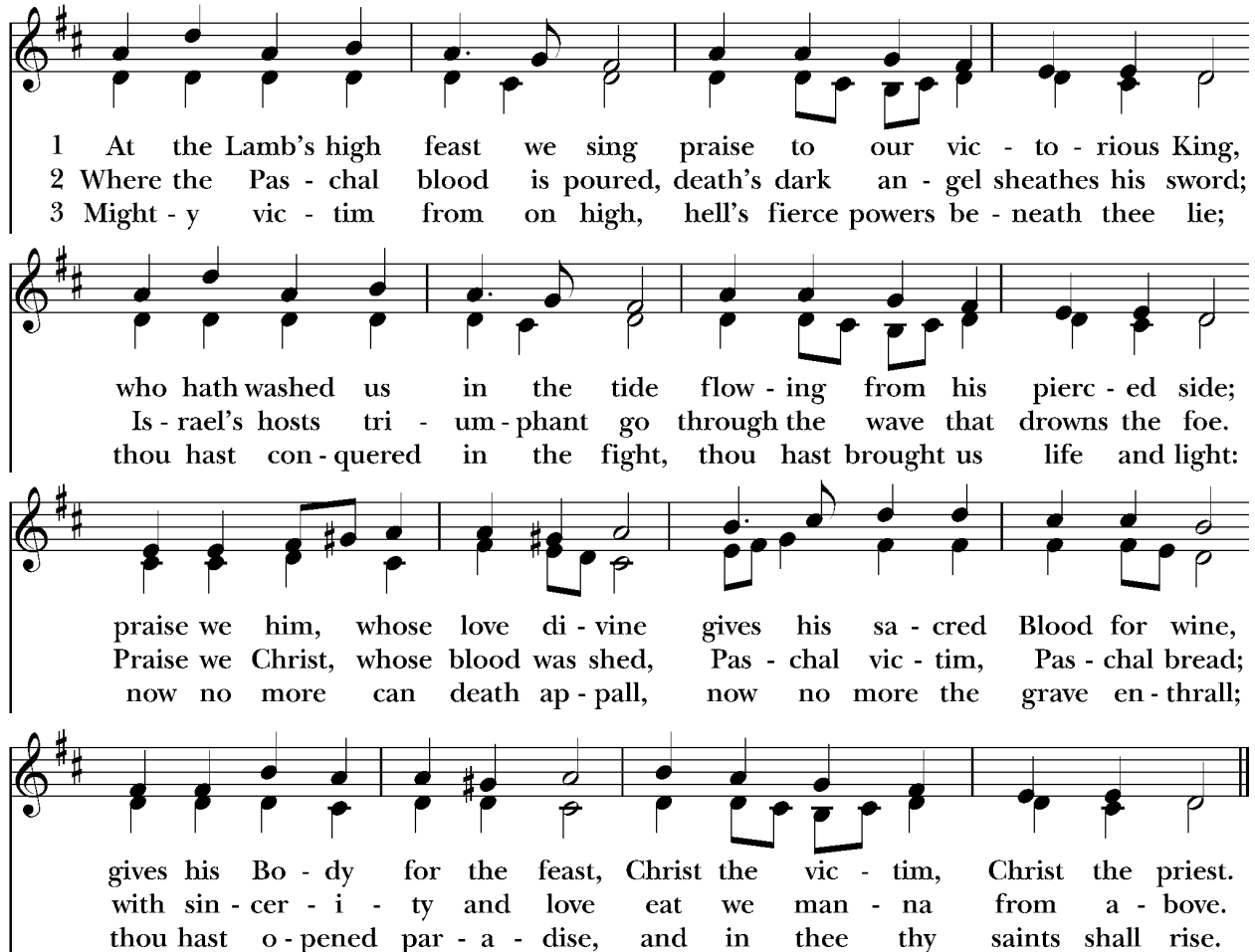
Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN

(H 174)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It consists of five lines of music. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker and of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

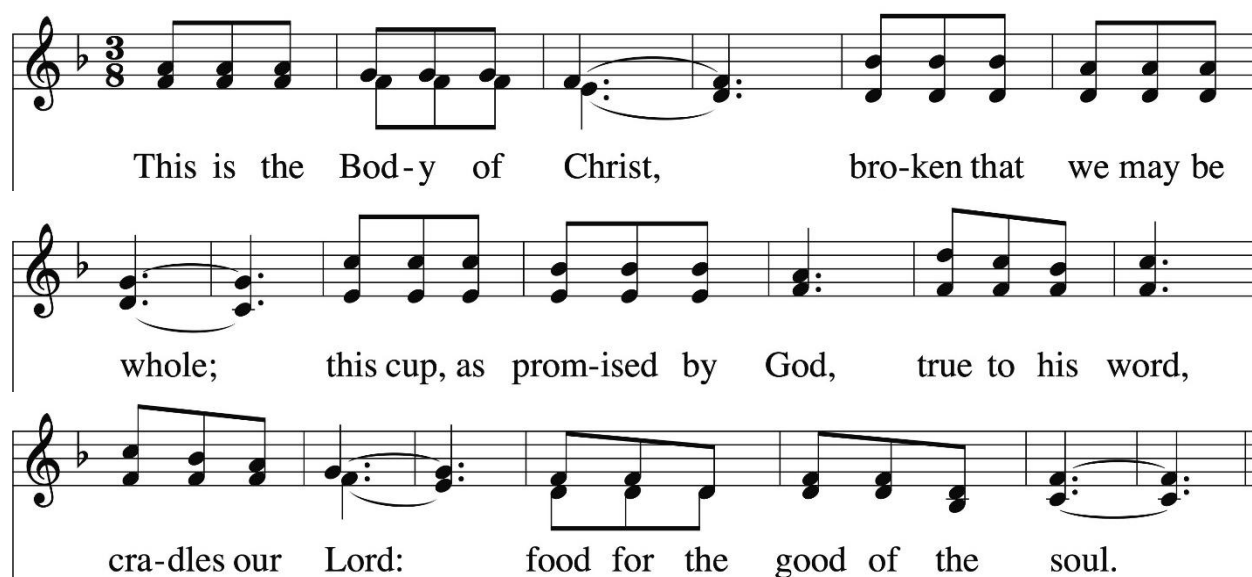
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated Bread. A moment of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM



This is the Bod-y of Christ, bro-ken that we may be
whole; this cup, as prom-ised by God, true to his word,
cra-dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
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INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The congregation may be seated.

The priest and altar servers receive Communion first, followed by the Eucharistic Visitors (if any), non-ambulatory people in the pews, the choir, and finally the entire congregation.

Eucharistic Visitors are sent out with these words, said in unison by the congregation

**We send you out bearing these holy gifts,
that those to whom you go
may share in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one Bread and one Cup.**

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at their own level of comfort, according to their personal beliefs and the teaching of whatever faith community they call home.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as you approach the altar, and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

Gluten-free hosts are available next to the priest.

To support our kindred who are in recovery, we use alcohol-free wine at the Eucharist.

When administering the Cup, the Eucharistic Minister will keep hold of the chalice.

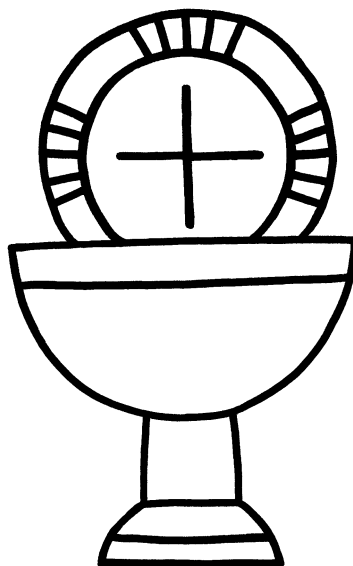
Touch the chalice to help them guide it to your lips.

It is acceptable to receive the Sacrament in one kind only.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]



COMMUNION HYMN

(H 593)



1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
 2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
 3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
 4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
 5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
 2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
 3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
 4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
 5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
 2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
 3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
 4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
 5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God,
 we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
 of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
 that we are living members of the Body of Christ,
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
 And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
 to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
 To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
 be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

(WLP 778)



1. We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
 2. We all are called for ser - vice to wit-ness in God's name.
 3. We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty;
 4. Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent, our pur - pose is the same:
 the stew - ard of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so peo - ple of all na - tions may feel God's warm em - brace.
 free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

DISMISSAL



Deacon People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*If you would like to express your appreciation for our wonderful organist,
 we invite you to do so by saying "Amen" in lieu of applause.*

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Welcome to St. Mark's!

We hope you have felt welcomed, affirmed, informed, and inspired by this worship service. If that's all you're looking for in a faith community, **THAT'S PERFECTLY OKAY!**

We get it: Life is busy. Sometimes, it's nice to have a beautiful and peaceful place where you can rest for a while and reflect on the meaning of it all. Whether you decide to come every week or just once in a while, we're glad that you're here.

“How can I get more involved?”

If, however, you are interested in developing the spiritual side of your life or becoming an active part of a faith community, we are happy to help you with that too. Here are some ways to get involved, if you would like to do so:

Growing Together

Coffee and Refreshments are available in the Parish Hall after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

Lions' Roar is our formation program for kids, from preschool through 5th grade. Meets on the second floor of the education wing during the Sunday service. Students are escorted upstairs after the first part of the service and a brief conversation with Fr. Barrett. Two background-screened adults are present with students at all times, per our church's safeguarding guidelines.

The Men's Breakfast Women of St. Mark's Knit & Crochet Group
Narcotics Anonymous

Serving Together

There are many opportunities for you to use your unique gifts in service to God and our neighbors. Here are a few examples:

Vestry	Choir	Lion's Roar	Formation
Worship Planning	Altar Guild	Lectors	Acolytes
Eucharistic Ministers	Eucharistic Visitors	Ushers	Camera Operators
Mary & Martha Diner	Foster Closet	Building & Grounds	
Gifts & Bequests	Parish Life		