

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
OCTOBER 4, 2026
19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service
9:45 am - Sunday Church School
9:45 am - Children's Sunday School
10:20 am - Youth Ensemble

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor
Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173
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Karen Fisher, Office Manager
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Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday

Denise Hirn, Director of Youth Ensemble
Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064
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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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GUESTS:

We would like to get to know you! Please complete a "Welcome to St. Mark Church" card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. Thank you!

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

PRELUDE

2-part Invention #13 in A Minor

J.S. Bach

GATHERING

PSALM 118:24

P This is the day that the LORD has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P 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.
C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is
not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.

P Most merciful God,
C we confess that we are in bondage 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.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and,
for his sake, 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.
C Amen.

Asterisk (*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates to please stand as you are able.

*GATHERING HYMN

My Song Is Love Unknown



- 1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



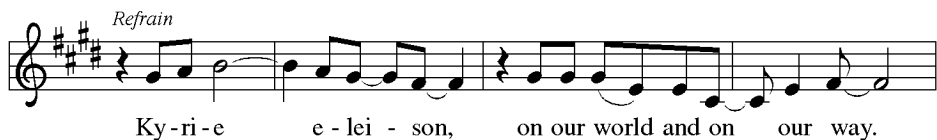
flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

- 5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.
- 6 In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

*GREETING

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

*KYRIE



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

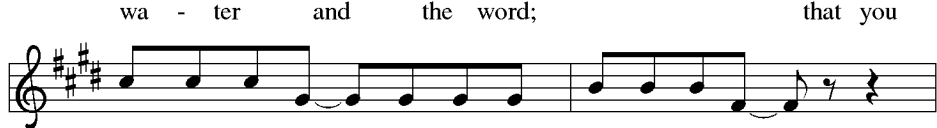
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

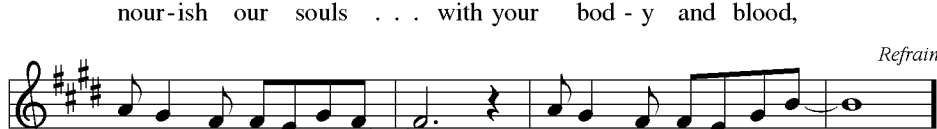
wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Listen! You Nations

Refrain



Lis - ten! you na-tions of the world: lis-ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



nounce it from coast to coast; de-clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



1 The Lord who scat-tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep-herd watch-es his flock. *Refrain*



2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra-diant-ly hap-py, for the



Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show-ers his peo-ple with gifts. *Refrain*



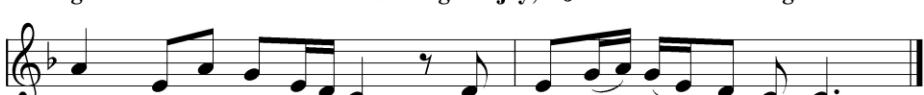
3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make



mer-ry. Like a gar - den re-freshed by the rain, they will nev-er be in want a -



gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach



na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

P 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.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

At This Table

Words by S. Murray/Music by A. Pote

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² 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.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ 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?

⁵ 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.
⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ 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!

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

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-14

(Please sing the Psalm in unison.)



**⁷ Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we ¹ shall be saved.**

⁸ You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.

⁹ You prepared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.

¹⁰ The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.

**11 You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.**

¹²Why have you broken ¹ down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck ¹ off its grapes?

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ¹ ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have ¹ grazed upon it.

¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and ¹
tend this vine;
preserve what your right ¹ hand has planted.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

R A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised 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; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More 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 ⁹and 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. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not 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. ¹³Brothers 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “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.

³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ 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.”

⁴² 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’?
⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on
this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it
falls.”
⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they
realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him,
but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

*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.

*Or, He descended to the dead.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

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

C **Amen.**

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I Surrender All

J. Van Deventer

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart
in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can
taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus through
the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
- C Amen.

*PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P 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:

*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.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

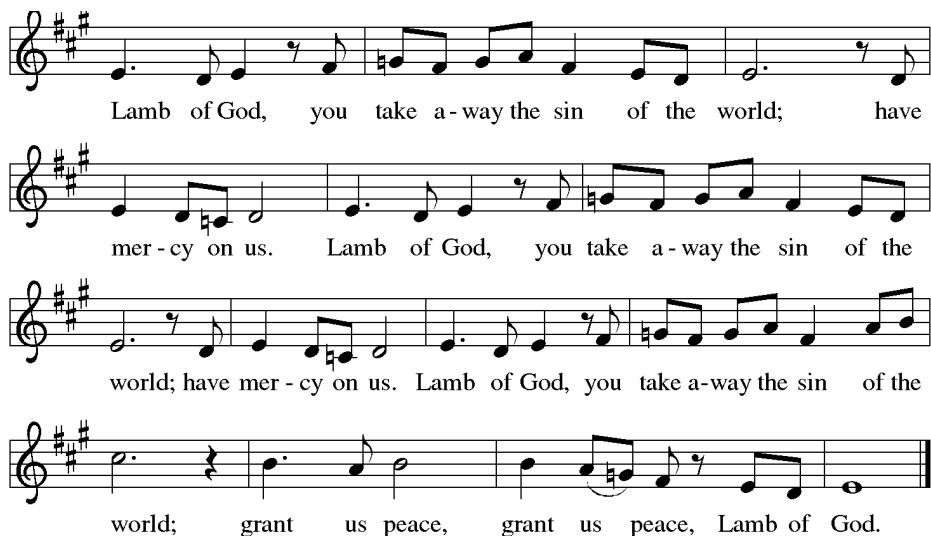
C Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

C 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.

*COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.



COMMUNION

All baptized, communion Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. We have gluten-free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine. Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.

P The body of Christ, given for you.

C Amen.

A The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

-HYMN OF THE DAY-

God of the Sparrow



1	God of the spar - row	God of the whale	God of the swirl - ing
2	God of the earth - quake	God of the storm	God of the trum - pet
3	God of the rain - bow	God of the cross	God of the emp - ty
4	God of the hun - gry	God of the sick	God of the prod - i -



stars	How does the crea - ture say	Awe
blast	How does the crea - ture cry	Woe
grave	How does the crea - ture say	Grace
gal	How does the crea - ture say	Care



How does the crea - ture say	Praise
How does the crea - ture cry	Save
How does the crea - ture say	Thanks
How does the crea - ture say	Life

5 God of the neighbor
 God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
 God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: ROEDER, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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-COMMUNION-

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses of text aligned with the notes.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three lines of text aligned with the notes.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The third system is the refrain of the hymn. It features a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with two lines of text aligned with the notes.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The fourth system continues the refrain. It features a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with two lines of text aligned with the notes.

(Please stand as you are able.)

- *P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

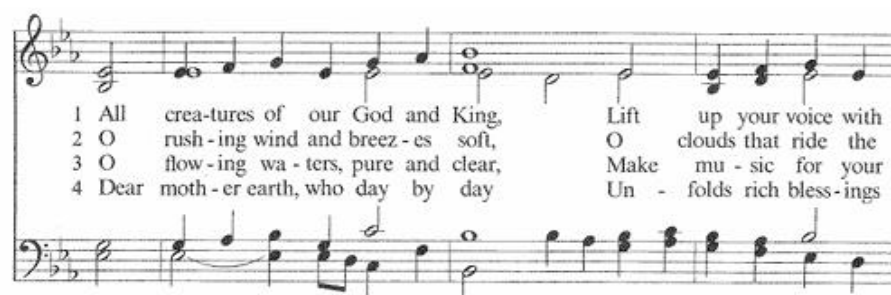
- A** Let us pray.
A O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
C Amen.

***BLESSING**

- P** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

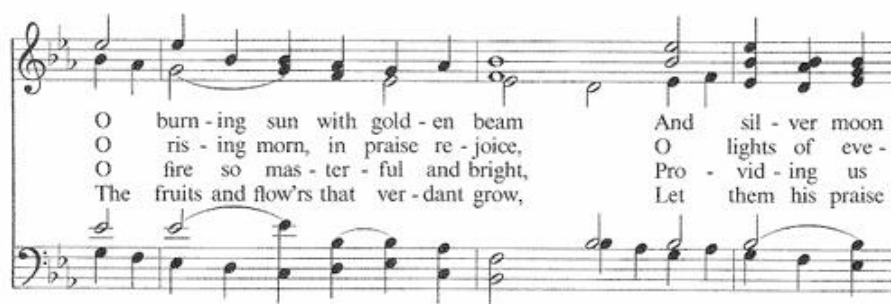
All Creatures of our God and King



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice with
2 O rush-ing wind and breez-es soft, O clouds that ride the
3 O flow-ing wa-ters, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for your
4 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day Un-folds rich bless-ings



us and sing: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
winds a - loft: Oh, . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!
Lord to hear, Oh, . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!
on our way, Oh, . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!

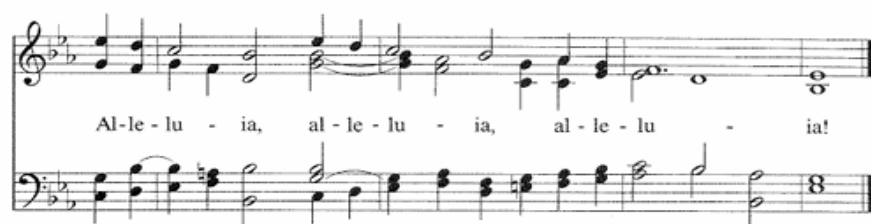


O burn-ing sun with gold-en beam And sil-ver moon
O ris-ing morn, in praise re-joice, O lights of eve-
O fire so mas-ter-ful and bright, Pro-vid-ing us
The fruits and flow'rs that ver-dant grow, Let them his praise



Refrain
with soft-er gleam:
ning, find a voice. Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
with warmth and light,
a - bun-dant show,

(Continued next page)



- 5 O ev'ryone of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part,
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 All you who pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and lay on him your care. *Refrain*
- 6 And you, most kind and gentle death,
 Waiting to hush our final breath,
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 You lead to heav'n the child of God,
 Where Christ our Lord the way has trod. *Refrain*
- 7 Let all things their Creator bless
 And worship God in humbleness.
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One, *Refrain*

(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

A Heaven has come near. Go share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand

Arr. A. Mason



In loving memory of my husband, Ernie Kreiser, by Darlene Kreiser.

In loving memory of our daughter, Mitzi Imbo, by Ez and Andi Sassaman.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

Kevin Amos

Lay Reader:

Terri Hopkins

Acolyte:

Phyllis Mihalich

Ushers:

Sean Gimbel, Jonas Gimbel

Altar Guild:

Michele Connor, Barb Lehman,
Bev Reihart

Zoom Operator:

Lori Clelan

Council Money Duty:

Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, October 4	19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
8:30 am	In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.
9:45 am	Church Sunday School
9:45 am	Children's Sunday School
10:20 am	Youth Ensemble
12:00 Noon	Pet Blessing
12:00 Noon	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, October 5	
2:45 pm	Violin Lessons
7:00 pm	German Group

Tuesday, October 6	
6:30 pm	WinGS

Wednesday, October 7	
11:00 am	Bible Study
2:00 pm	Worship & Music
3:30 pm	Worship Planning
6:00 pm	Bell Choir
7:00 pm	Vocal Choir

Thursday, October 8	
9:00 am	Property Committee
1:00 pm	Fellowship
2:45 pm	Violin Lessons
7:00 pm	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, October 9	
2:45 pm	Violin Lessons

Saturday, October 10	
8:00 am-11:00 am	CROP Benefit Pancake Breakfast Shepherdstown UMC

Sunday, October 11	HARVEST HOME SUNDAY
8:30 am	Worship Service—Communion
9:45 am	Council Connection
9:45 am	Children's Sunday School
10:20 am	Youth Ensemble
10:45 am	Youth & Family Ministry
12:00 Noon	Rain Date--Blessing of the Pets
12:00 Noon	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:	OCTOBER 11, 2026
FIRST READING	Isaiah 25:1-9
PSALM	Psalm 23
SECOND READING	Philippians 4:1-9
GOSPEL	Matthew 22:1-14

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

PET BLESSING

Bring your pets to our back yard at 12 noon TODAY, **October 4**, for a blessing.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for October, November, and December:

October 18	Thanksgiving Food to Include Turkeys <i>Canned fruit, corn, peas, green beans, stuffing, gravy packs</i>
November 15	Christmas Food to include Ham/Turkeys
December 13	To be announced

YELP LOCAL GUIDE WANTED

We are still looking for Yelp Local Guides to update the comments shown in Google maps. If you know a local guide, ask them to comment on St. Mark!



CROP Hunger Walk Benefit PANCAKE BREAKFAST Sat., Oct. 10, 2026, 8-11AM

Shepherdstown United Methodist Church

1934 S. York St., Mechanicsburg PA 17055

**Pancakes, Sausage Links, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Cups,
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Orange Juice, Apple Juice**

100% of donations will benefit the CROP Walk

ANNUAL SOUP ON THE SIDEWALK—MECHANICSBURG HALLOWEEN PARADE

Stop by St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mechanicsburg on Tuesday, **October 13, 2026**, starting at **6:00 PM** for our *Soup on the Sidewalk event*. We are asking if you would donate a crockpot of soup. We are also looking for individually wrapped cookies. **Please bring soup and cookies to St. Mark no later than 5:45 pm the night of the parade.** Help is needed by serving the soup at this event as well. Sign-up sheets will be posted at entrances to St. Mark. Please contact Marlin Brown, Fellowship Chair, with any questions.

CROP Walk

The 55TH annual Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger 5K Walk/Run will be held on **October 18** in **Mechanicsburg Memorial Park**. Registration is at **1:00 PM**. Team photos are at **1:20 PM**, and the Walk/Run starts at **2:00 PM**. You can join St. Mark Lutheran Church Keller Street Walkers by contacting the church office or sign up on your own. This walk is an international activity to feed the hungry in our community. Walkers are sponsored by donations which contribute to local organizations that do this work.

<https://crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa>

TRUNK OR TREAT

On **October 24 (rain date Oct 31) at 10:00 AM** our Noah's Ark themed Trunk or Treat welcomes you to trick-or-treat at the decorated car trunks and play Halloween games in our backyard! We will be serving hot dogs.

Items Needed for Trunk or Treat:

- Donations of **candy and other Trick or Treat items**—leave in the Upper Room or give to an Evangelism Committee member **no later than Sunday, October 18**.
- **Cars** for kids to visit—you can decorate it in our Noah's Ark theme, or our youth can do it for you, you can stay and hand out treats or not.
- People to "man" the trunks to help **pass out treats**.
- People to help **run games** for kids.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can let a committee member know—**Evangelism Committee**: Jessica Johnston, Amy Gimbel, Gene Shaner, Pastor Marleen

***SPREAD THE WORD
INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO THIS FUN EVENT!***

REFORMATION BINGO

Join us in Fellowship Hall during Sunday School time on Reformation **Sunday, October 25** for **Reformation BINGO and Jeopardy**. Everyone is invited. Please bring a German themed snack to share.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On **Sunday, November 1, 2026**, we will remember the Saints who have died in faith since last All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2025. **If you have a loved one whom you would like to remember this year, please contact the church office no later than Monday, October 12, 2026.**

GETTING READY SUNDAY

Get ready for Advent by joining us in Fellowship Hall on **November 29 at 9:45 AM** for Advent crafts and cookie baking. We bake for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministries so truckers can get a taste of Christmas while they are away from home. If you cannot join us but would like to donate premade cookies, contact the church office.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER RETURNING

We are planning on celebrating Thanksgiving dinner at St. Mark this year on **Thursday, November 26, 2026, at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**. Helpers are needed to set up, serve, clean up, and help wash dishes. We are soliciting donations of any kind of dessert. To defray the cost of the meal, we are requesting donations of any amount. Please make checks payable to St Mark and write *Thanksgiving dinner* on the outside of your envelope and on the memo line. **Please use the sign-up sheets at entrances to our church no later than November 16** or contact the church office at 717-766-4482 to make a reservation. For additional questions or additional information, please contact Keith Hensel at 717-319-1199.



COUNCIL CONNECTION

Calling All Members

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

Your Church Council would like to invite you to remain in the Sanctuary for a brief meeting following worship on **Sunday, October 11 (approximately 9:45 am)**.

Our focus for this meeting is to update you on St. Mark's current financial status and to inquire if you have any questions. Financial reports are provided monthly in *The ReMarker*. We hope this information is helpful to you, and we would like your feedback. This meeting could be a time to address any questions you may have in preparation for the upcoming budget meeting on November 8.

We will also provide a brief update on the Conscience and Conversation Retreat held on September 26 concerning the ELCA's Reconsideration of the 2009 Social Statement; Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.

Refreshments will be provided in Fellowship Hall following the meeting.

Current Church Council Members:

Kevin Amos
Marlin Brown
Amy Gimbel
Barb Yost
Ben Yost
Terry Shaner
Karen Fisher
Keith Hensel
Jessica Johnston
Pastor Marleen

"Pray with your feet" and walk your values at the
Mechanicsburg/West Shore
CROP Hunger Walk

to benefit **New Hope Ministries, Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels and Church World Service**



**Sun., Oct. 18,
2026, 2:00PM**

**Memorial Park, Memorial Park
Mechanicsburg, PA**

Dr

5K/1.5-mi. Fun Run/Walk *Rain or Shine*

**1:00PM Day of Registrations 1:20PM Team Pictures
2:00PM Fun Run/Walk Begins**

**Register online by midnight, Sun. Sept. 27 and be
guaranteed a T-shirt and be entered for door prizes.**

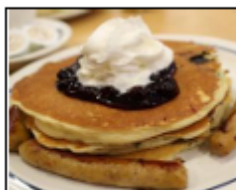
Strollers, leashed dogs welcome. Live DJ. Refreshments

**Use the link or QR code to register and
donate OR register in person the day of
the walk. Bing cash or a check payable to
CWS/CROP.**

<https://crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa>

For more info, contact Ulli Klemm

ulliklemm@yahoo.com 724.464.8748



CROP Hunger Walk
Benefit PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sat., Oct. 10, 2026, 8-11AM

**Shepherdstown United Methodist Church
1934 S. York St., Mechanicsburg PA 17055**

**Pancakes, Sausage Links, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Cups,
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Orange Juice, Apple Juice**

100% of donations will benefit the CROP Walk

JOIN IN THE FUN—VIDEO GAMING NIGHT

Video Gaming Night

For Youth in **Grades 9-12**



St. Mark Lutheran Church



117 West Keller Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



Saturday, November 21



4-8 p.m.

« **Bring a friend** and a snack
or drink to share »



October 4	Blessing of the Pets
October 11	Council Connection Meeting
October 13	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk—Memorial Park
October 25	Reformation Bingo and Jeopardy (During Sunday School time)
October 29	Ladies & Friends Night Out (TBA)
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 8	Annual Meeting & Council Connection
November 10	Book Club
November 21	Video Gaming Night
November 26	Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark
December 24 December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services
January 6, 2027	Epiphany, Waffle Wednesday, Chicken & Waffles
February 10	Ash Wednesday
March 25	Seder Meal
March 28	Easter

-WORD SEARCH-

PASTOR APPRECIATION

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

UNDERSTANDING
COMPASSION
SHEPHERD
COURAGE
MATURE

APPRECIATION
SUPPORTIVE
STRENGTH
CARING
WISDOM

PERSEVERANCE
GUIDANCE
THANKFUL
LOVING
GODLY

LECTIONARY 27

ONE WORD: *JESUS*

The tennis team had a word for the season: *rally*. That one word centered everything: “Extend each rally.” “Rally when you’re down.” “Rally back after a rough week.” Each practice began with the word “Rally” at the top of the chalkboard above the conditioning drills. The huddle before each meet was broken with the shout “Rally!” And it wasn’t just on the team. At night, when the coach’s family sat down to dinner, they all shared what they’d done that day to “rally” in their lives. Everything and everyone were centered, gathered around that one word. In our lives of faith, that one word is *Jesus*.

Jesus reminds his hearers that he is the cornerstone of faith: for the Pharisees, for the rest of the crowd gathered at the temple that day, and for us, the church here and now. The grace we find in Jesus’ love—the love that goes to the cross, to the empty tomb, and even beyond for us and our salvation—is the bedrock of our faith as we live out the life to which we are called in baptism. *Jesus* is the one word—indeed, Jesus is the Word—that gathers us together, that centers our lives.

United to Jesus, the cornerstone of our lives, in baptism, we are also united with one another. Today’s parable certainly showcases what human division can be and do at its worst, but in Jesus, we are not divided. Where division causes hurt and suffering, unity in Jesus brings hope, healing, and restoration. Where hope seems lost, Jesus rekindles that flame. Centered and united around Jesus’ baptismal grace, we are empowered and emboldened to proclaim the good news of Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith.

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