

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 717-652-6700

Web page: www.stmarksharrisburg.org

E-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com

MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025

P THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE.

C LET US REJOICE & BE GLAD IN IT.

MISSION STATEMENT: Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

Please silence all electronic devices.

WELCOME! Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude. **Ver ujier para boletín en español**

Voir l'huissier pour le bulletin français

PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

CONSIDER THIS

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dedication: Bench in memory of Jonnie & Paul Deibler.

PRELUDE— Voluntary on “Ein ‘ Feste Burg”

Martin Luther Arr Gordon Young



Stand Gospel Acclamation



8:15 Sermon Lesson — Gospel: John 8:31-36

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th Chapter
C Glory to you O Lord

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

Sit 8:15— Sermon

Stand Hymn #504 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

The Ten Commandments

(According to Luther's Small Catechism)

P God promises grace and every good thing to all those who keep God's commandments.

Therefore, we are to love and trust God and gladly act according to God's commands.

C You shall have no other Gods

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the
Lord your God

Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy

Honor your father and your mother

You shall not murder

You shall not commit adultery

You shall not steal

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor

You shall not covet your neighbor's house

You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse... or anything
that belongs to your neighbor

P Having been reminded of God's perfect law, we now confess our sins, seek and receive forgiveness by God's grace.

Kyrie—Lord Have Mercy

Refrain



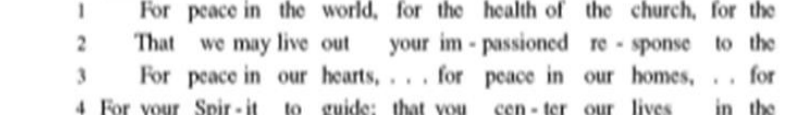
Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



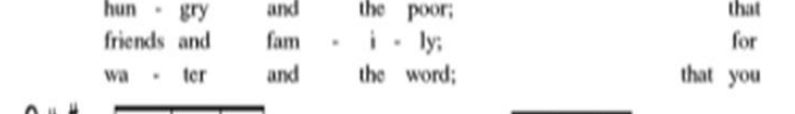
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
 hun-gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam-i-ly; for
 wa-ter and the word; that you

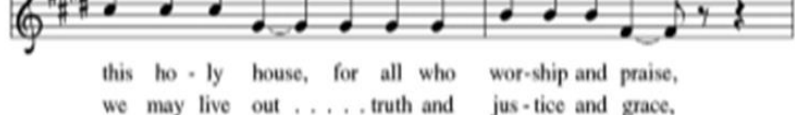


this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain



Confession and Forgiveness

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Sit or kneel as able

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful and loving God,

C we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.**

Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

Stand **Salutation**

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you

Prayer of the Day—Let us pray...

A Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Special Music: The Truth Will Make You Free
Festive Choir

First Lesson : Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

A reading from Jeremiah

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they

shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 46

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the
sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of
God,**

the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear and burns

the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;**

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Lesson: Romans 3:19-28

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

A reading from Romans

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God

put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

11:00—Stand Gospel Acclamation



11:00 Sermon Lesson Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 8th Chapter
C Glory to you O Lord

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P The Gospel of the Lord
C Praise to You O Christ

Sit **CHILDREN'S SERMON/YOUTH MESSAGE**

11:00 SERMON

Hymn #513 *Listen, God is Calling*
Congregation sings "All" parts

8:15—Affirmation of Baptism by the Assembly—Page 234

11:00 Confirmation—(Affirmation of Baptism) - Page 234

Confirmands

Elizabeth Baranowski, Malaia Foor & Madeline Varga

THE PRAYERS

P God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

P We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

MEAL

PEACE

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share.

We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other.

P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you**

Sit **OFFERTORY** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

Purcell, arr. Berry

Stand **OFFERTORY HYMN ELW #685 Vs1&4**

Take My Life that I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in cease-less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes-sag-es from thee.
take my in-tel-lect, and use ev-ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

OFFERTORY PRAYER— Let us Pray

A Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Spoken **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

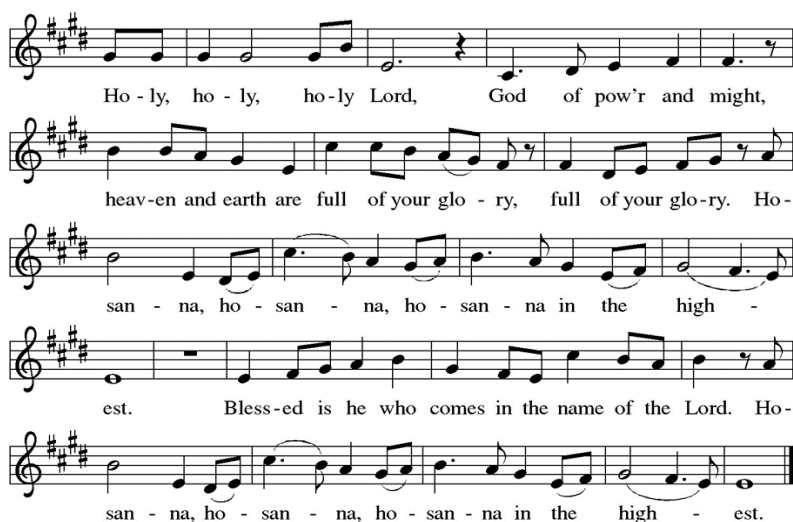
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise..

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your
name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

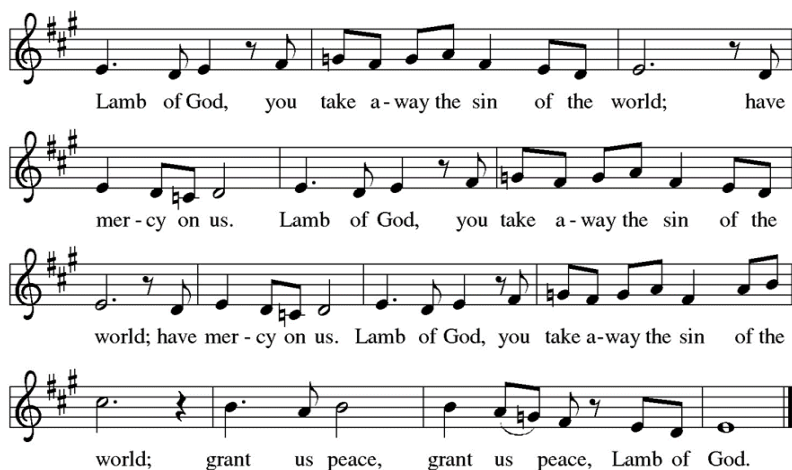
LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

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.

Communion Distribution

We invite all Christians who believe that Jesus gives his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins to receive the sacrament with us, the communion assistant will distribute the wine from a pouring chalice into a cup you may pick up at the front of the aisle. If you are unable to take either the bread or wine, be assured that the sacrament is complete. Those not receiving communion are invited to come to the rail to receive a blessing. Parents of young children; please direct the pastor as to whether your child usually receives communion or not.

Communion Hymns

#878 *Soli Deo Gloria*

#596 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—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 The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
+ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn #654 *The Church's One Foundation*

DISMISSAL

P Do not lose heart. Go in peace.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE ~ *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

Lee, arr. Bankson

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Altar Flowers are in memory of my mother, Helen Dugan.
Given by Donna Lee.

Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Jim Carl. Given by
Stephanie Carl.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

CO-MINISTERS OF MUSIC - Jenny Sustak & Faith Smeck

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - Sue Bennick; Barb Dudek

USHERS - Doug Womer, Ed Shadle, Rick Frazier,

Chris Bair, Joe Boslet, Dave Featherman

COMMUNION ASST - Jessica Broome; Madeline Varga

WORSHIP ASSISTANT— 11:00 Malaia Foor

LECTOR - Faith Smeck; Zara Bennett

FLOWER DELIVERY - Zara Bennett

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Dave Stanton

NURSERY SCHL DIR. - Jessica Broome 717-827--8104

SEXTON - Don Young

OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. MARK'S THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	10/26	8:15 am Worship 9:45 am St Mark's Minis Sunday School 9:45 am Intergenerational Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Trunk or Treat 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous
MONDAY	10/27	
TUESDAY	10/28	2:00 pm Esther/Eve Circle 2:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall
WEDNESDAY	10/29	10:00 am Bible Study
THURSDAY	10/30	1:00 pm Craft Artisans
FRIDAY	10/31	
SATURDAY	11/01	
SUNDAY	11/02	8:15 am Worship 9:45 am St Mark's Minis Sunday School 9:45 am Intergenerational Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous

Time change Fall Back: November 2, 2025 Clocks go back an hour

A SEASON OF GIVING — EMMOR BOSLET

As we approach the holidays, our thoughts turn to giving — cookies to the postman, money to the paperboy, and gifts to friends and family.

Being a financial advisor, it was a busy time for us as well. Making sure our retired clients who were 70 1/2 (now 72) or older completed their RMD's (required minimum distributions).

Today, if they are retired and 72 and older...and have retirement accounts such as IRA's, 401K's or similar, you must start making withdrawals. The money counts as ordinary income and you pay federal income tax on the withdrawn money.

The custodian of your retirement accounts is required to notify you of that minimum amount you must withdraw but you can always take out more.

But you can avoid paying federal tax on the withdrawn amount if you donate all or part directly to a church or licensed charity.

What a wonderful way to tithe with tax free money.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Along with the change of seasons comes the changing of our closets. As you find clothes that no longer fit your body or your mood, bring them to church for our clothing drive. All clothing that is clean and in good wearable condition will be offered at the November Community Breakfast. Please place donations in the benches in the Narthex.

OCTOBER PET SUPPLIES COLLECTION

Along with the annual Pet Blessing in October, we will once again be conducting a donation drive for The Humane Society of Harrisburg.

Throughout the month of October there will be a collection bin in the Narthex for any pet related items.

Some items needed are:

Unopened pet food

Litter

Towels, blankets, and sheets

Paper towels

Any items on the Wish List flyer



Humane Society
OF HARRISBURG AREA

Shelter WISH LIST

Help shelter pets on their journey to find forever

FOR THE PUPS

- Soft and chewy dog treats
- Heavy duty dog toys
- Kongs (sizes XL and XXL)
- Nylabones or Benebones
- Peanut butter (smooth, nothing with xylitol)
- Canned dog food - any kind
- Dog beds of any size or blankets
- Washed, gently used items are great, but no knitted or crocheted items, down comforters, or electric blankets





Scan for more wish list items

FOR OUR FOSTERS

- KMR powder
- Pet nursing bottles
- Microwavable heating pads
- Snuggle Safes
- Pop-up playpens
- Pureed baby food (chicken, turkey, beef)



FOR THE KITTIES

- Cat scratchers from stretchandscratch.com
- Cat toys
- Catnip
- Canned pate cat food
- Canned kitten food
- Cat treats
- Treat dispensing toys/puzzles



FOR THE CRITTERS

- Timothy hay
- Small animal wooden chew toys
- Small animal treats
- Chewable straw mats and huts



HUMANE SOCIETY OF HARRISBURG AREA | HUMANESOCIETYHBG.ORG