



OUR MISSION

Reaching out to the community to share the Gospel through faith, fellowship, and service.

OUR VISION

Become the visible presence of Christ in this community

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 5, 2025, 10:00 AM

St. Mark's Lutheran



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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are glad you are here! May this be a holy time for you to offer your praise to God as well as receive God’s grace through the Word, sacrament, song, and prayer.

You may contact Jennifer, our church Office Administrative Secretary at (626) 961-2486 or churchadmin@stmarks.ws or email Pastor Mericle directly, pastorjim@stmarkshh.com. 562-360-9812

If you have questions, about the service or St. Mark's, please do not hesitate to ask one of the ushers.

Holy Communion

We will be sharing Holy Communion today - If you wish to receive communion, please pick up a communion kit at the table where you came onto the lunch patio or have bread/cracker and wine/juice available if you are joining us online.

Last Sunday’s Attendance
255

SERVING TODAY

- PASTOR: the Reverend James Mericle
- MUSIC DIRECTOR: Graham Jackson
- SONG LEADERS: Norm Rumpf, Betty Casteneda, Sondra Mericle
- LECTOR: Marian Locke
- CHILDREN’S SERMONETTE: The Reverend James Mericle
- ALTAR GUILD: Kim Winn
- TECH: Chris Birtja, George Li
- CO-DIRECTOR OF USHERS: Phil Barnhart, Frank Winn
- USHER: Bill Rosentreter
- GREETERS: Wang Family

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Zoom Bible Study– Wednesday, October 8,there will be no Bible Study. Will resume on October 15.

Out to Brunch– Wednesday, October 10. 10am. Join us for Food & Fellowship at Aloha Stacks. 13515 Whittier Blvd. Whittier. Please call Mary Rosentreter @ (626) 825-7630

Breast Cancer Awareness Month– October 12. Let’s wear pink and we will pray for those battling the disease, survivors, caretakers and families.

High School– Sunday, October 12. 4pm-6pm Please join us for our first combined High School event with St. Mark’s and Christ Lutheran. Meeting @ Christ Lutheran Church in West Covina

Bible Class– Class continues Sunday, October 12 & 19th after Worship in Pastor’s Office. Even if you missed the first class, it is not too late to sign up! Please speak to Pastor Jim.



Fall Bingo– Sunday, October 12 after Church. Join us for Fall Bingo! We will be serving pizza, salad, drinks and desserts while we play. \$10 per person. \$30 for a group of four. 1 Bingo Card per person. SIGN UP TODAY! Contact Mary Rosentreter (626) 825-7630



Capital Campaign Kick Off- October 19, 10am. Save the Date and join us for the kick off!

Oktoberfest- Sunday, October 20. 3pm-6pm. Held at Trinity Episcopal Church @ 100 N. 3rd Ave, Covina. This Annual Action Food Pantry will include food, fun and an accordion player! They will be accepting donations that will go towards scholarships for college/trade schools students from supporting congregations. Contact the Church Office for applications.

+SENDING HYMN **All Creatures Worship God Most High!**

**All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev’ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
Sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Sing, brother wind; with cloud and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear sister water, useful, clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

+DISMISSAL & VISION
So that we may be
**the visible presence of Christ
in this community.**
Let us Go in Peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST: HEALING: Krystal Barnhart; Norma Collosi - significant health issues; George Trapani (Sharon Heck son-in-law) - medical issues; Dick Batchelor (Norm’s brother-in-law); Ruby Thomas (Irvin Thomas’s sister-in-law); Kristen Aquino; Matthew Haskins (friend of Dan O’Connell); ; Arnold Anderson; Derek Canada - heart trans plant; Lori Ueda - hip surgery; Gary Bradford - medical issues; Sharon Bradford - reconstructive surgery ILLNESS: Tom Powell (friend of George Li); Erin Taylor (Nathan Magdaleno’s friend) - ALS; Charlotte Fugate (friend of Aaron Figueroa) - Alzheimer's; Dan Ni (George Li’s family friend) - terminal cancer; Alex Cormack TREATMENTS: Lorna Delgado (Ms. Dominique’s mom) - cancer; Christine Tseng (friend of Chou family) - cancer; Dorothy Pantleo (mother of Angela Merchant) - cancer; Tina Walker (friend of Erin Andrade-Lopez) - pancreatic cancer; Bryan Avera (nephew of Crystal Miranda) - pancreatic cancer , Jianguo Ge (father of Hannah Ge) - gastric cancer; HOSPICE: Bob Mericle

Thank you for joining us!



Gathering + Word + Meal + Sending

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND THEMES OF THE DAY

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church! It is a joy to have you be a part of this community today, as we gather to worship God and give thanks to our Lord, Jesus. We have a very special worship service today as we also commemorate Francis of Assisi, a great sharer of the good news of Jesus in the early 13th century and known for his affinity for animals.

Today we will be blessing our animals or pets at the start of worship service, so make sure to have your pets or a picture of your pet with you when the time comes. Blessings to each of you and may the Holy Spirit refresh the path before you!

+GATHERING HYMN **Thy Word**

Refrain **Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path**

**(Vs1)When I feel afraid; and I think I’ve lost my way
Still you’re there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.
Refrain**

**(Vs2) I will not forget Your love for me,
and yet My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide, and hold me to Your side;
I will love you to the end.
Refrain**



+THANKS AND CONFESSION

L Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

C We thank you, God!

L Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

C We thank you, God!

L Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

C We are sorry.

L Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

C We are sorry.

L Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans, or fields,

C We are sorry.

L I speak for Christ. For all your sins against the creatures of Earth, I forgive you and I call upon you to honor and protect all my animals. Yes, I speak for Christ. May the animals of The Earth be your companions in life and lead you to celebrate your place in the circle of life.

C Amen! Amen! Shalom! Shalom!

The Lion and the Lamb

(vs1)He's coming on the clouds,
Kings and kingdoms will bow down.

And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

(chorus) Our God is the Lion, The Lion of Judah.
He's roaring with power, and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him.

Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain.
For the sins of the world, His blood breaks the chains.
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.
Every knee will bow before Him.

(vs 2) So open up the gates
Make way before the King of Kings
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

(repeat chorus)

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

+ DISTRIBUTION & BLESSING (using Communion Kits) **Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Gathering + Word + Meal + Sending

We Come to the Hungry Feast

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied,
the love of God is not denied.
We come , we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a world released
From hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come , we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
And knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us s
Still, we come, we come to the hungry feast .**

+ BENEDICTION

L As God has blessed you with these pets, so may they be blessed in your care.
The blessings of Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C Amen.

+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 THE CHURCH

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

Gathering + Word + **Meal**+ Sending

+ OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE **As the Grains of Wheat**

Refrain **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people, from all the ends of earth
be gathered in to one in you.**

**As this cup of blessing is shared with in our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain***

**Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when
all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain***

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Benevolent, merciful God; When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith,
strengthen un. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and
serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen**

Gathering + **Word** + Meal + Sending

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let Your blessing be
upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror Your love, and our care for
them be an example of Your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen
us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God’s
servant Francis. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**
*The Minister circulates through the congregation, asks the name of the animal, places his hand
on the animal’s head and then blesses the animal. (Insert Name), may you be blessed in the
name of God, who created you. May you and your human family experience joy and compan-
ionship together and continue to be a blessing to each other.*

FIRST READING

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

Psalm 37:1-9

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Mericle

GOSPEL

Luke 17:5-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the seventeenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Faith and Service

Pastor Mericle

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

This is My Father’s World

**This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings, the music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father’s World; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father’s world; The birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
Declare their makers praise.**

**This is my Father’s world, Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let heaven ring;
God reigns. Let earth be glad!**

