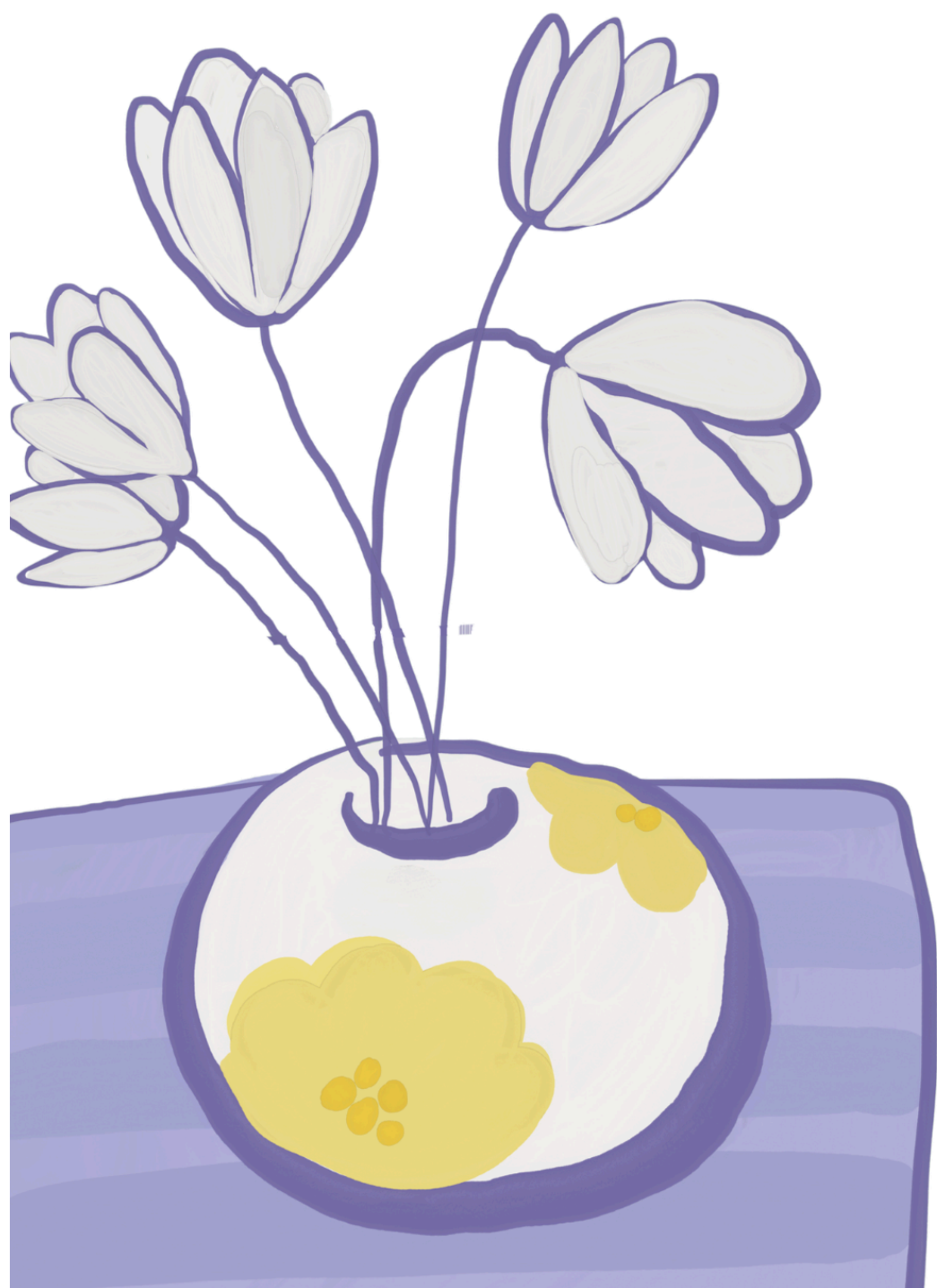


Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



October 4,
2026

9:30 a.m.

St. Mark's &
St. John's
Episcopal
Church



Season of Stewardship

Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

FIRST TIME HERE?

- **Coffee & Drinks:** Help yourself to a cup in the Café—yes, you can bring it to your pew!
- **Name Tags:** Fill out a temporary tag today, or leave your name with our greeter so we can make you a permanent one.

DURING WORSHIP

- **For Families:** Children are always invited to create in our kids' areas equipped with weekly activity sheets and crayons.
- **Accessibility:** Hearing assistance units are available on the table at the entrance. We are happy to assist you.
- **Giving:** We no longer pass an offering plate. If we invite you to place gifts in the plate by the sign-in binder or contribute online.

STAY CONNECTED

- **Livestream:** Catch our live service every Sunday at **9:30 AM** at stmarksandstjohns.org
- **Social Media:** Find us on Facebook and Instagram - @stmarksandstjohns

PRELUDE

Instrumental

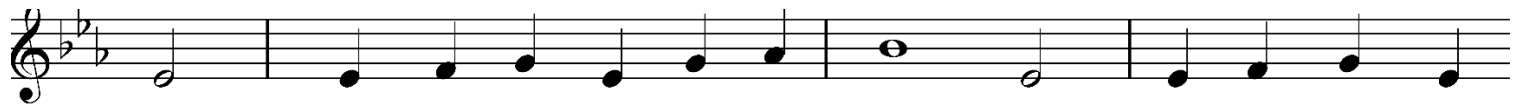
OPENING SENTENCE

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Come, let us build our lives upon Christ and worship the Lord (*based on Matthew 21:33-46*).

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

1982 Hymnal, 618



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright ser - a - phs, cher - u -
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more glo - rious than the



bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, Al - le - lu - ia! Cry
ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou



out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, powers, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the



choirs, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Lord, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



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

WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the One, Holy, and Undivided Trinity.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things that weigh upon our conscience, and giving us those good things for which we lack the courage to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ,

our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the book of Isaiah, the fifth chapter

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

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

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80: 7-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**

SECOND LESSON*

“Messenger”

The second lesson is a poem by Mary Oliver

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—
equal seekers of goodness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
They have no words, but I offer them.
They have no mouths, but I offer them.
They serve their time.

My work is a series of standing still and learning to be astonished.
The ear-corn, the thick-bodied worm
singing its way through the earth, the lilies.
The sheep that lie clean on the hill and the tied cows.
The beaten field.

My work is thankful.
And my work is a series of standing still,
and learning to be astonished.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Celtic Alleluia"

Sing three times



GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time

had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

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

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

Pastor Cindy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

E.D.E.N. Service Learning

We Believe in God the Creator and Cultivator,

who plants within every young person the seeds of goodness, wisdom, and infinite worth. In every lesson shared, every question asked, and every spark of curiosity ignited, we see the reflection of God's expanding grace, guiding our youth to grow into the fullness of who they were created to be.

We Believe in the Dignity and Voice of Young People,

that every young person is a beloved child of God with sacred gifts to share. We commit to cultivating safe and holy spaces where young people are heard, valued, and empowered—walking alongside them as they discover their faith, exercise their leadership, and share their unique stories.

We Believe in the Holy Spirit of Hope and Transformation,

that learning together in community opens our hearts to justice, joy, and collective healing. We commit to building bridges across generations, sharing our gifts, and nurturing a vibrant fellowship where young minds and spirits are fed, grounded in Christ's love, and equipped to transform our community and the world.

PRAYER INTENTIONS AND MEDITATION

Please be seated

We invite you to share prayer intentions that are close to your heart by lighting a candle and writing your intention on one of our prayer boards.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Holy One.

For faith communities around the world, that we may all be living signs of your generous and welcoming Kingdom.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

For our church community, as we journey through this season of Stewardship. Open our eyes to see the abundance of your blessings, and free us from the fear that there is not enough.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

For all who labor in the shadows of our communities—especially undocumented workers and their families, who bear the quiet, heavy weight of fear, instability, and daily strain while seeking fair wages, safety, and daily bread. Help us to build a society of refuge and justice where their dignity is honored, their burdens are lifted, and the last are made first.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, lonely, or carrying heavy burdens (*especially...*), that they may feel the comforting presence of your grace.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

For all who have died, that they may rest in the fullness of your eternal feast.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Loving God, you call us into service not out of obligation, but out of love. Receive the prayers of your people, and grant that our lives may overflow with the grace you so freely give; through Jesus Christ, our redeemer. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

AN OFFERTORY MEDITATION

In the beginning, God spoke creation into being—land, sky, sea, and living creatures—establishing community. Centuries later, God called forth St. Mark's & St. John's to be a community of compassion, justice, and love.

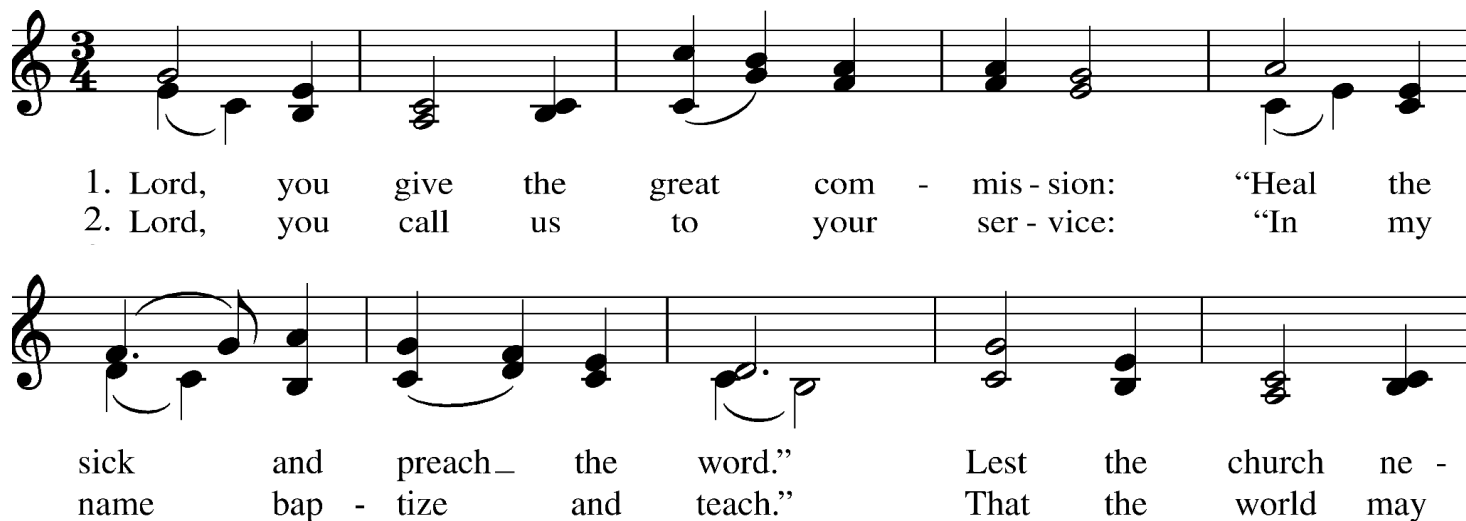
Nearly 100 years ago God declared this corner of Rochester to be a sanctuary for rest, a beacon of hope, and a house of prayer—a place of healing for generations. May this community continue to move with confidence in an unknown future.

Brief Silence

OFFERTORY

"Lord You Give the Great Commission"

WLP780



1. Lord, you give the us great com - mis - sion: "Heal the
2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my

sick and preach the word." Lest the church ne -
name bap - tize and teach." That the world may



glect its mis - sion, and the gos - pel go un -
trust your prom - ise, life a - bun - dant meant for

heard, help us wit - ness to your pur - pose
each, give us all new fer - vor, draw us

Refrain

with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty.
clos - er in com - mun - i - ty.
share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty. } With the Spir - it's

gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.

"Crowded Table"

by Brandi Carlile, Natalie Hemby,
and Lori McKenna - Text adapted for worship

Refrain: I want a church with a crowded table

And a place at the altar for everyone

Let us take on the world while we're fed and able

And bring us back together when the day is done

Verse: If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed

Plant a little happiness - let the roots run deep

If it's love that we give - then it's love that we reap

If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you
and also with you.

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

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

From dust you shaped us in your image, filling creation with abundance. Your grace overflowed through Sarah and Abraham, Miriam and Moses, Deborah and David, and Mary, whose Yes brought forth your Word. In every age, you invite every soul to labor in your fields of love, promising your full measure of goodness to all without partiality.

Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, comparing our labor with our neighbor's, choosing envy over gratitude, and replacing your grace with our own measures of merit and reward.

In your mercy, you came to us in your Son, Jesus—the one who transformed death into unending life. And so we give you thanks, rejoicing that in this community there is room and grace for everyone. We join all of Creation, saints, and angels, in their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

On the night before his death, Jesus sat at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take and eat: This is my Body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks to you, Creator, and gave it to them, saying:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation 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.

Send your life-giving Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, our spiritual food and drink.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is redeemed by love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father in Heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is 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

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

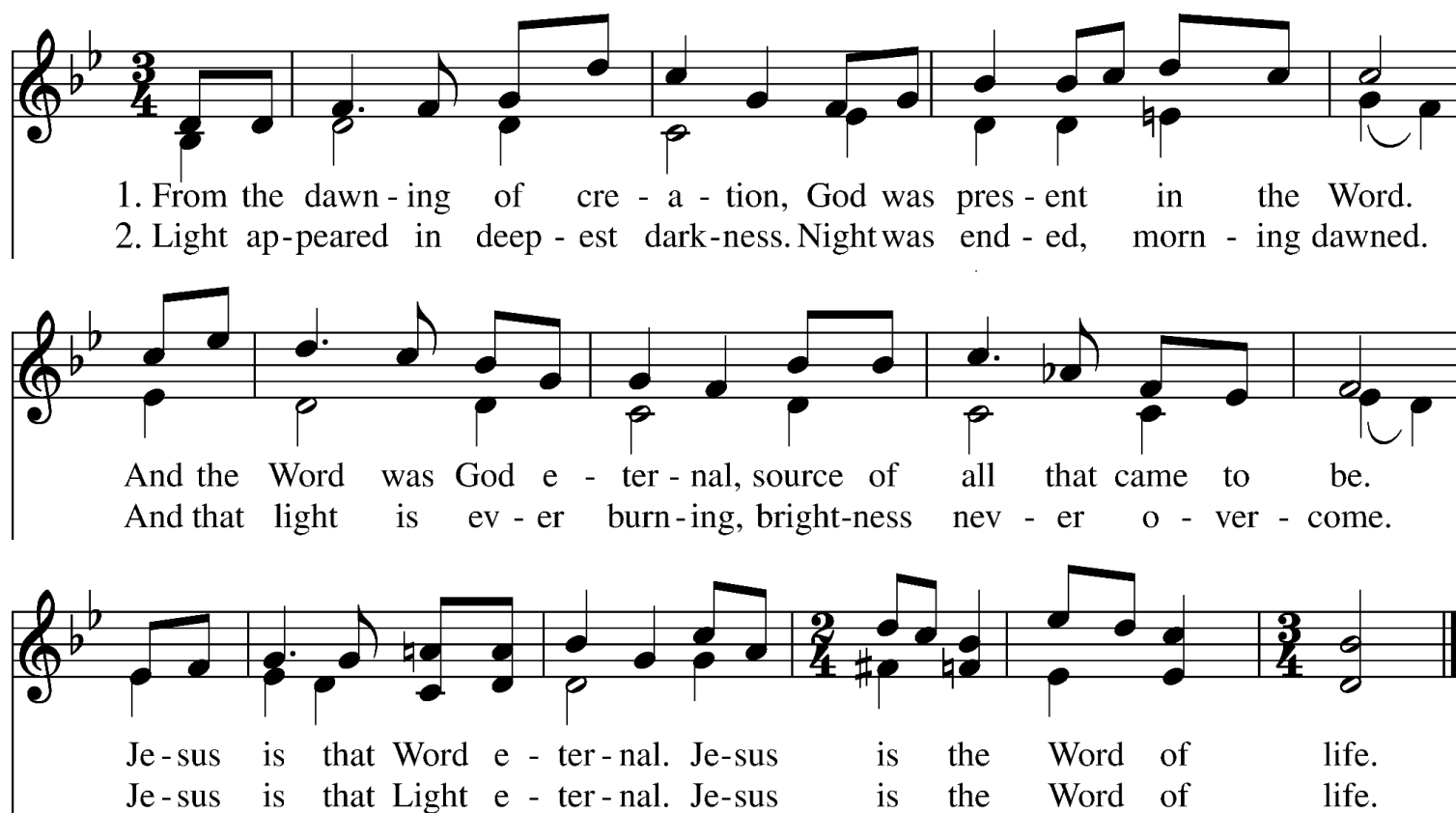
We who are many are one body,

for we share in this one bread.

FRACTION ANTHEM

"From the Dawning"

Verses 1 and 2 only - WLP 748



1. From the dawn - ing of cre - a - tion, God was pres - ent in the Word.
2. Light ap-peared in deep - est dark-ness. Night was end - ed, morn - ing dawned.

And the Word was God e - ter - nal, source of all that came to be.
And that light is ev - er burn-ing, bright-ness nev - er o - ver - come.

Je - sus is that Word e - ter - nal. Je - sus is the Word of life.
Je - sus is that Light e - ter - nal. Je - sus is the Word of life.

The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All are invited to come to the table.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

If you would like to receive a blessing just let us know.

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Taste and See"

WLP 764

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
 2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.
 3. Wor - ship the Lord all you peo - ple.

His praise shall al - ways be on my
 To - geth - er let us all praise his
 You'll want for noth - ing if you

lips; my soul shall
 name. I called the
 ask. Taste and

glo - ry in the Lord; _____ for
 Lord and he an - swered me; _____ from
 see that God is good; _____ in

he has been so good to me. _____
 all my trou - bles he set me free. _____
 him we need put all our trust. _____

D.C.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of Abundance, we thank you for renewing us at your table. You have filled us with good things and blessed us beyond measure. May the grace we have received fuel our living, so that our lives, our resources, and our ministry may reflect your boundless generosity to all people; through Christ our Light. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECESSIONAL - "A BLESSING"

adapted for SMSJ liturgy

**The Lord bless you and keep you,
make Her face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn Her face toward you and give you peace. (2x)**

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

**May Her favor be upon you and a thousand generations
And your family and your children and their children,
and their children. (2x)**

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve God.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Worship Leader Schedule - Lectors

Date	Crucifer (Processional & Recessional)	First Lesson & Psalm	Second Lesson	Greeter & Prayers of the People
10/4	Sharon	Joe	Heather	Tom
10/11	Kevin	Cath	Ella	Walt
10/18	Dave	Mary Ellen	Dave	Bonnie
10/25	Joe	Michele	Nancy W.	Deb

Eucharistic Ministers

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups	Commune Choir
10/4	Nancy W.	Tom F.	Paul	<i>TBD</i>
10/11	Bobby C.	Deb	Sharon	<i>TBD</i>
10/18	Kevin	Heather	Ella	TBD
10/25	Joe	Ella	Terri C.	TBD

Note about Today's Liturgy

* In the Episcopal Church, our worship is shaped by scripture, tradition, and reason. While the primary lessons in the Eucharist are drawn directly from the Bible, our Anglican tradition has long affirmed that the Holy Spirit speaks not only through canonical texts, but through the entirety of creation and human expression.

Today, in place of a traditional Epistle reading, our Second Lesson features a non-scriptural selection ("*Messenger*" by Mary Oliver). Texts like these act as modern wisdom literature—inviting us to pay deep attention to the natural world, awaken our capacity for awe, and recognize the divine presence woven through all of creation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Season of Stewardship - Following Service - Focused Discussions

October 4th	Stewarding Community
October 11th	Stewarding Compassion
October 18th	Stewarding Justice & Love
October 25th	What have we learned? Who is God calling us to be?

Blessing of the Animals will be held tomorrow (**Monday, October 5 at 6 pm**) in the Church Garden Bring your furry friend, stuffed animal, or their photo to receive a special blessing celebrating the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Titan Service Scholars Overnight Retreat - we look forward to welcoming the Titan Service Scholars program for a service learning retreat on Saturday, October 10th 3PM - Sunday, October 11th 8:30. Students will be busy with service projects around SMSJ and education around service in Rochester and globally as they prepare for their trip to the Dominican Republic. They will join us for worship Sunday morning, October 11!

Diocesan Convention — Saturday, October 24

On Saturday, October 24, clergy and lay delegates from our parish will join delegates across the diocese for the 95th Diocesan Convention at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Please hold our delegates and diocesan leaders in your prayers as they meet for worship, fellowship, and divine discernment.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Hannah R. - Oct. 4 Walt S. - Oct. 11 Mary Ellen F. - Oct. 11 Serenity N. - Oct. 17	Pastor Cindy & Mary Ellen - Oct 30th

*Do you have a birthday or anniversary coming up in October?
Please let us know admin@stmarksandstjohns.org*

Empty Bowls

A benefit for the Food Shelf at **St. Mark's & St. John's**

Friday, Nov. 6 | Doors Open 6 pm

1245 Culver Road, Rochester, NY

Purchase Tickets at:

stmarksandstjohns.org/emptybowls

\$40/individual ticket, \$150/half table (4), \$300/full table (8)

Guests will enjoy homemade soups, along with bread, desserts, and exciting basket raffle. Each guest will also take home a handmade ceramic bowl created by local artists, a one-of-a-kind keepsake and a reminder of the difference you can make for a neighbor whose bowl is empty tonight.



It's time for **Empty Bowls!** This annual event is a fundraiser to support our mission-based initiatives and programs to feed those experiencing hunger in our neighborhood.

The concept for this event is simple—a simple soup dinner, served in a handcrafted bowl the guest has chosen and kept as an unspoken reminder that somewhere someone's bowl is empty. By charging a donation fee for entrance to this event, we are able to fill the bowl of someone in need in our community.

Here's how YOU and those you know can get involved:

 Grab your tickets to join us at
stmarksandstjohns.org/emptybowls

 Volunteer as a soup maker: talk to Terri Censak

 Serve on the event team for prep and/or day-of-event help

 Sponsor a raffle item or source donations: talk to Pastor Maria

 Spread the word: Share this event and invite friends!

SMSJ WEEKLY CALENDAR

October 5 - October 11, 2026

Monday, 10/5	6pm - St. Francis Celebration & Blessing of Animals (<i>Church Garden</i>)
Tuesday, 10/6	Morning - Foodlink Delivery 1:00 pm - Food Shelf Bagging 4:00 pm - Gardening at EDEN 1199 5:00 pm - Gardening at EDEN Merchants
Wednesday, 10/7	9:00 am - Gardening at EDEN Church 10:30 am-Noon - Food Shelf 10:30 am - Staff Meeting
Saturday, 10/8	
Sunday, 10/9	9:30 am - Holy Eucharist 10:30 am - Stewarding Community Discussion

Save the Date! Coming this Fall

Sat., 10/10 @ 10 am - Community Volunteer Day

Sat., 10/10- Sun., 10/11 - Titan Service Scholars Retreat

Fri., 11/6 @ 6 pm - Empty Bowls



St. Mark's & St. John's Leadership

The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen, Ph.D., **Rector**
crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

The Rev'd Maria Hartz-Clineburg, **Associate Priest**
mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

The Rev'd Patti Blaine, M.A., BCC, **Deacon**
pblaine@stmarksandstjohns.org

Musician

AV Producer

Rob Thornton

Amelia Yousey

Deacon Emeritus

The Rev'd Mike Finn

Vestry Members

Co-Wardens

Nancy Ramsay ('27)
Sharon Kowalski ('28)

Bob Caruso (Clerk)

Terri Censak ('29)

Dave Everson ('28)

Heather Gilfoy ('27)

Michele Holmes ('28)

Deb Snyder ('29)

Nancy Willer ('27)

Diocesan Delegates

Bonnie Hallman-Dye
('28)

Nancy Ramsay ('26)

Ella Webster ('26)

Treasurer

Michele Holmes

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative

Terri Censak