Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



November 8, 2026
9:30 a.m.

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

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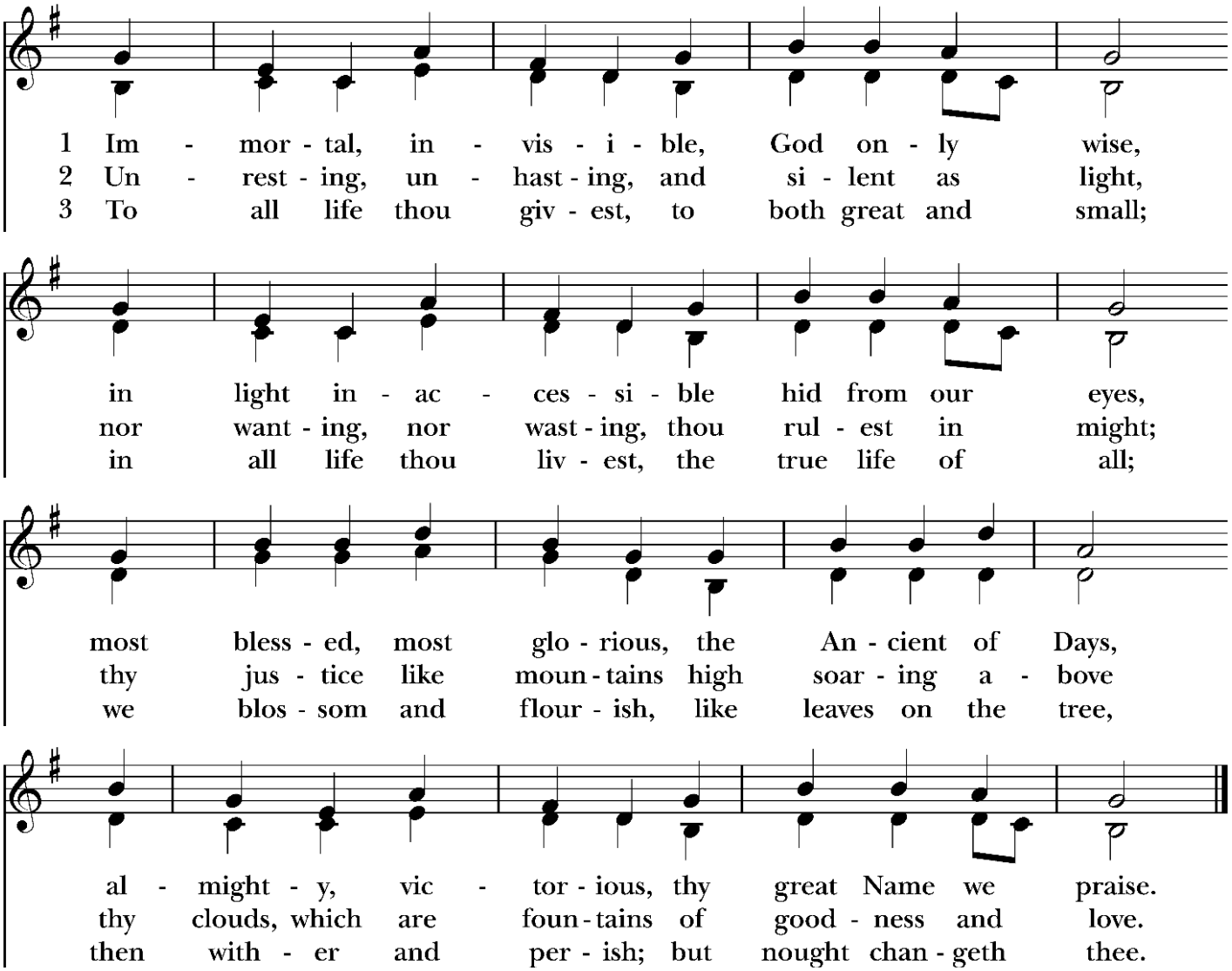
- **Livestream:** Catch our live service every Sunday at **9:30 AM** at stmarksandstjohns.org
- **Social Media:** Find us on Facebook and Instagram - @stmarksandstjohns

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

H 1982 423



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 eternal God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom, the sixth chapter

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

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

Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.

Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back,
because they are ashamed.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the LORD!"

But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The second reading is from First Thessalonians, the fourth chapter

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will

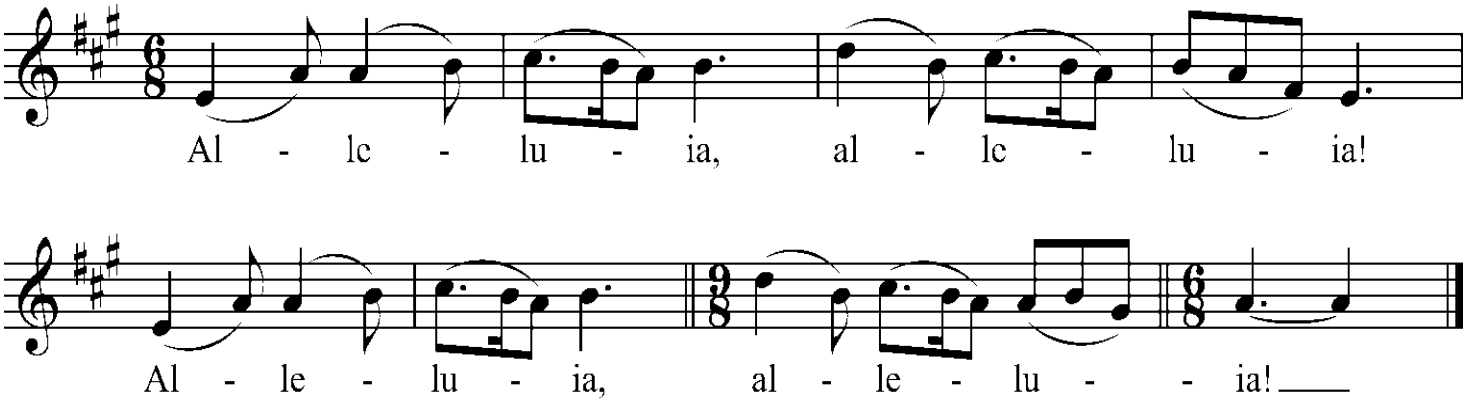
descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

People: **Thanks be to God**.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia"

Sing three times



GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;

but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON Pastor Maria

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

Let us join our hearts and voices together, offering our prayers to God who holds all of creation in love.

(Silence)

We pray for the global Church—for all who gather in faith, across every land, tradition, and culture. May we be bold in love, grounded in truth, and relentless in mercy.

God of all, hear our prayer.

We pray for the earth, our fragile island home, and for all living creatures. Guide us to be faithful stewards of creation, preserving its beauty and richness for the generations yet to come.

God of all, hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of nations, cities, and communities. Endow them with wisdom, humility, and compassion, that they may seek justice, honor human dignity, and work tirelessly for peace among all peoples.

God of all, hear our prayer.

We pray for our local community and for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit—those who live with grief, illness, poverty, or isolation. Surround them with your healing presence and raise

up caring hands to minister to their needs. We pray especially today for…

God of all, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the diverse tapestry of all the departed whose lives have reflected your light and kindness into our world. Give us grace to follow their examples of courageous love and inclusive hospitality.

God of all, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Holy and Loving God, you have bound us together in one holy fellowship. Accept these prayers of your people, and grant us grace to live into the hope and promise of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our light and redeemer. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

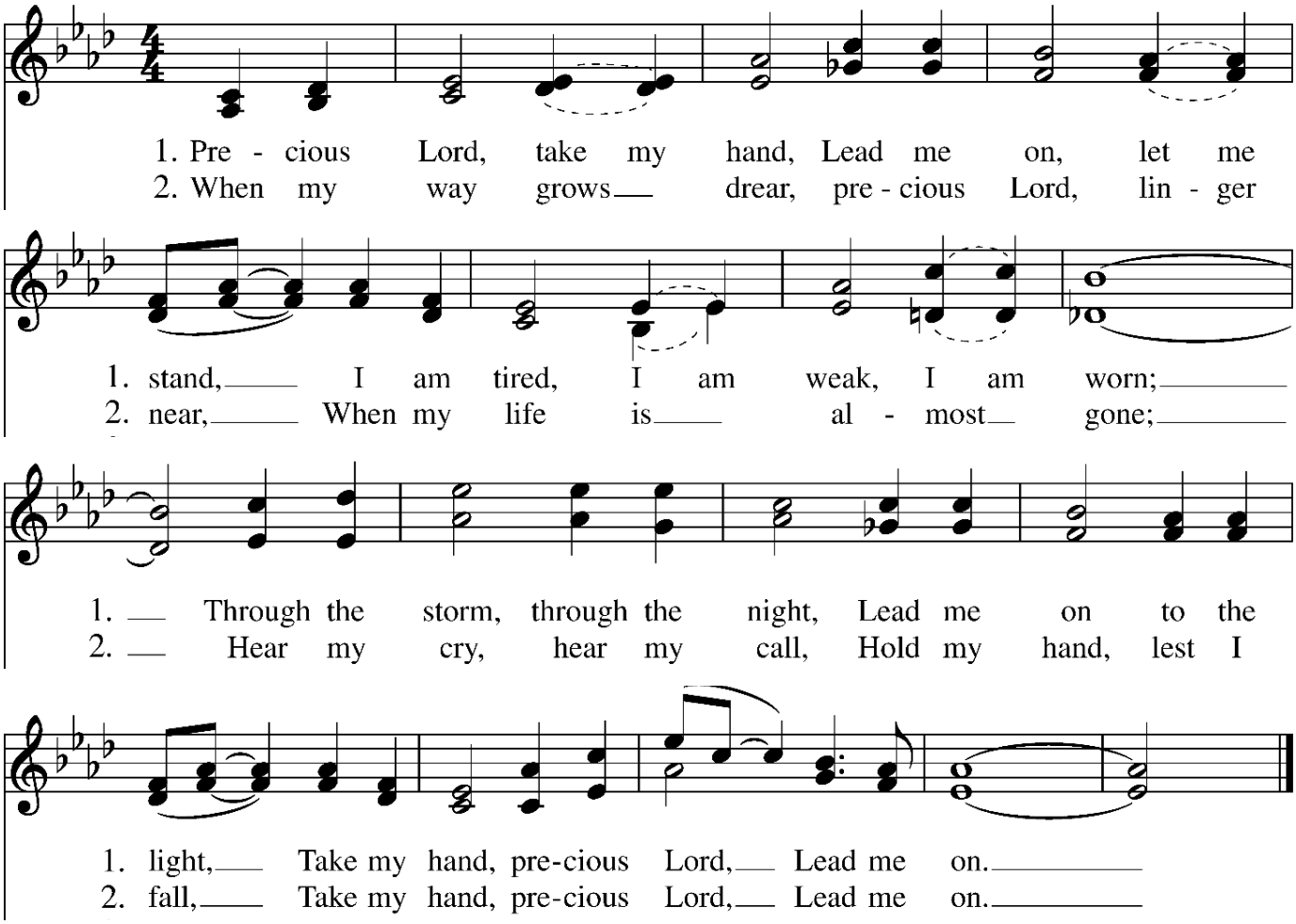
And also with you.

Brief Silence

OFFERTORY

"Precious Lord take My Hand"

LEVAS 106



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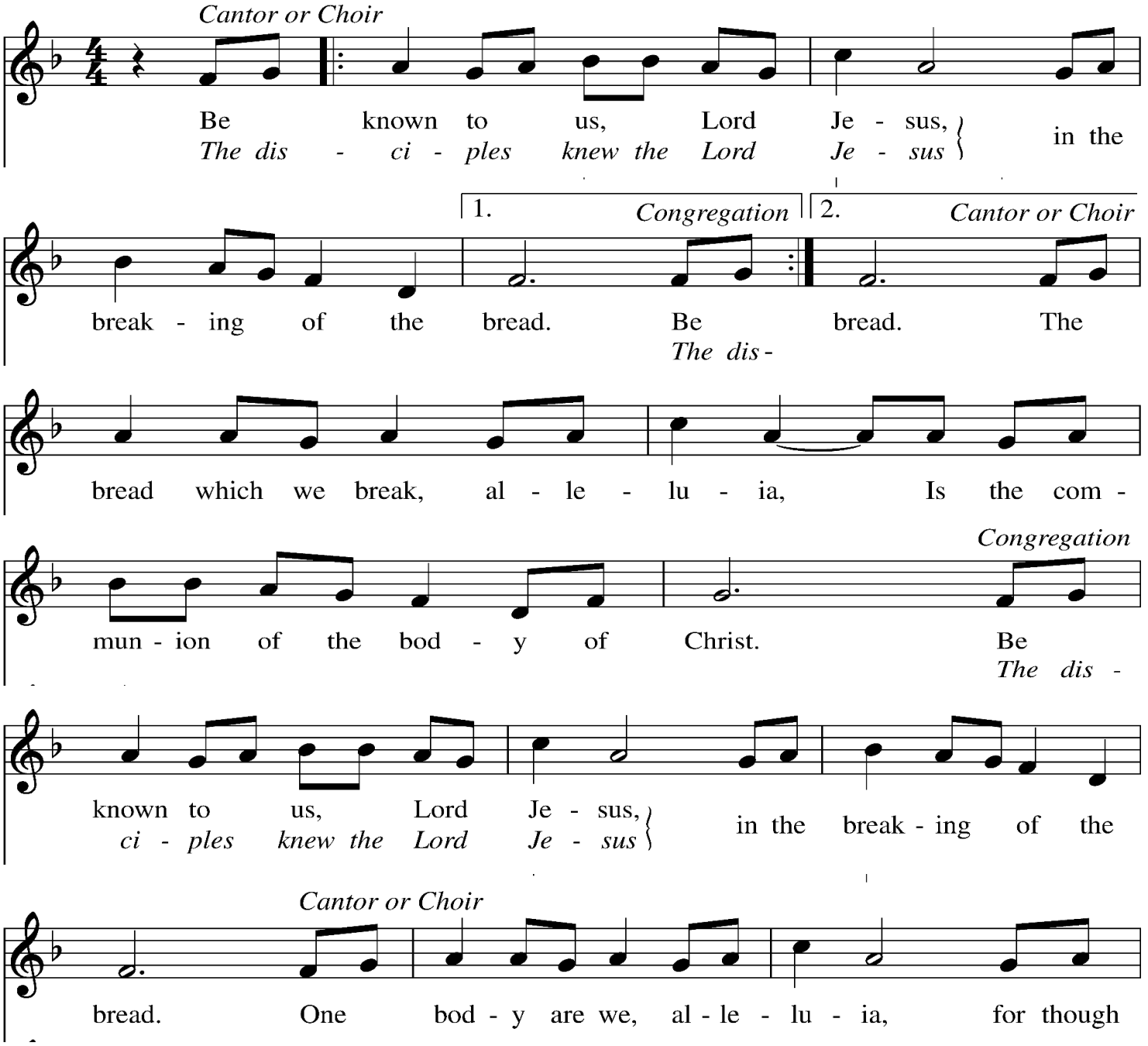
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

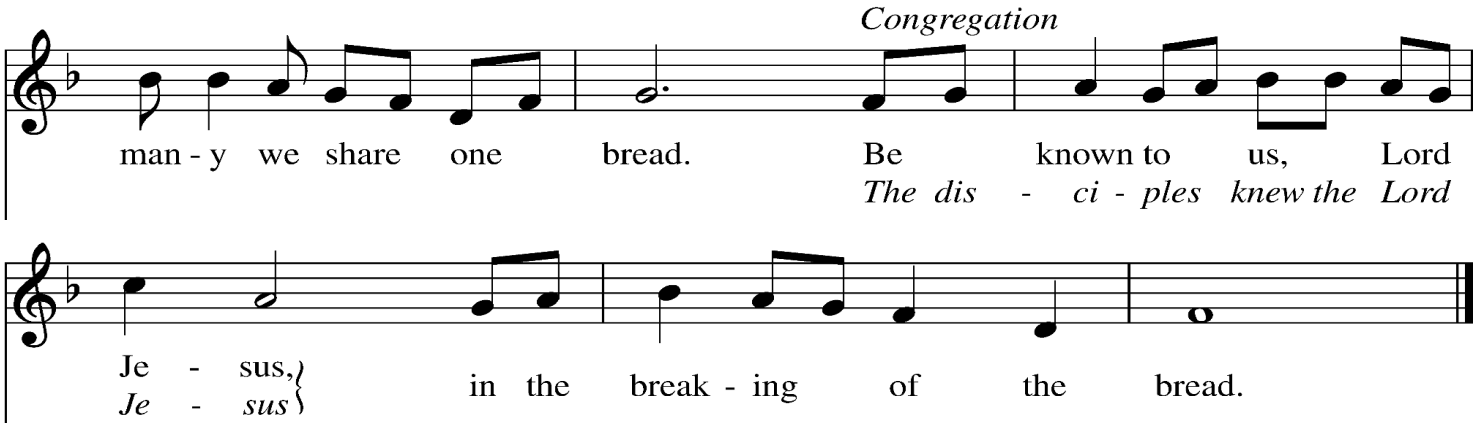
We who are many are one body,
for we share in this one bread.

FRACTION ANTHEM

"Be Known to Us"

WLP 875





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.

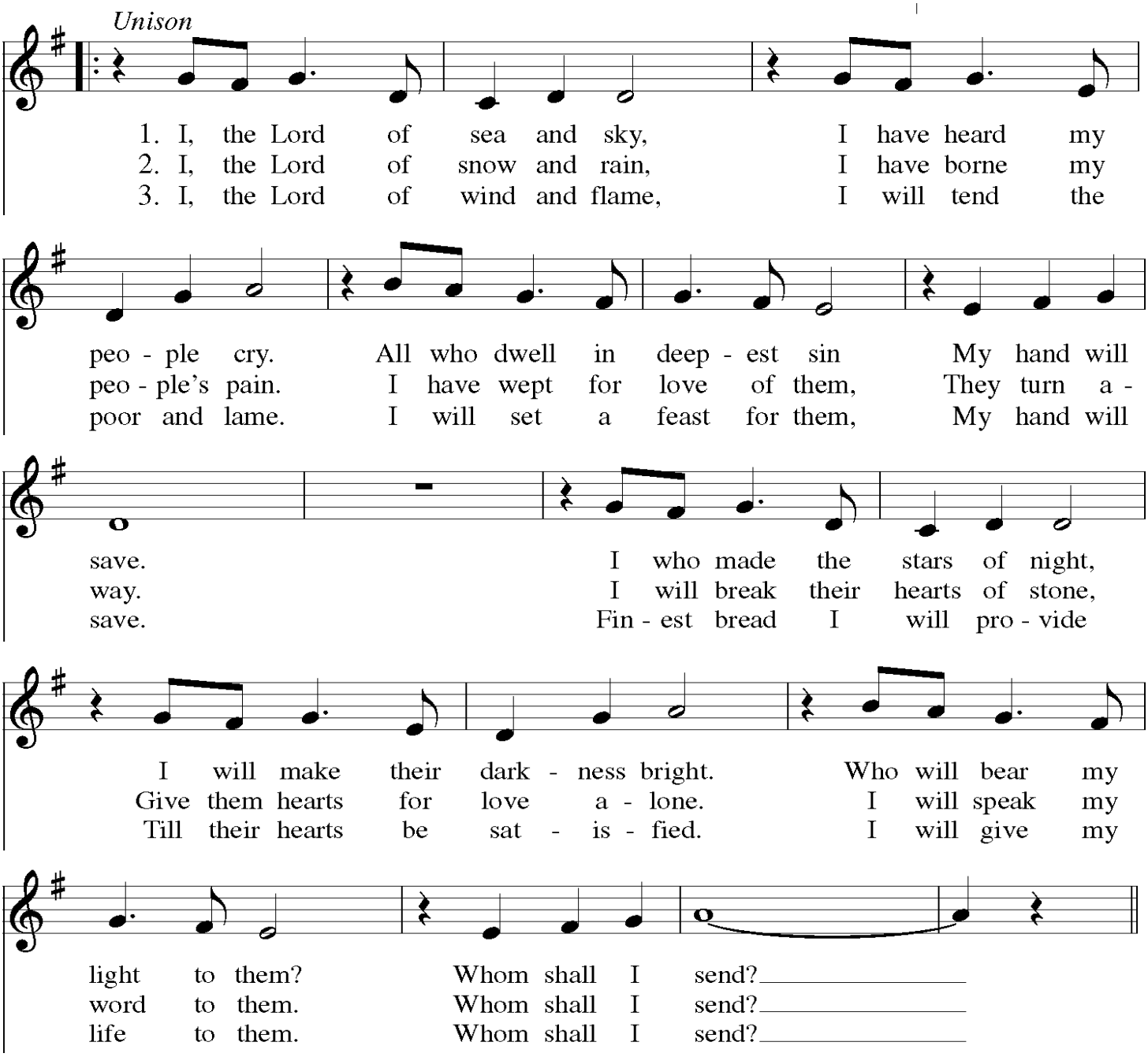
All are invited to come to the table.
Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.
If you would like to receive a blessing just let us know.

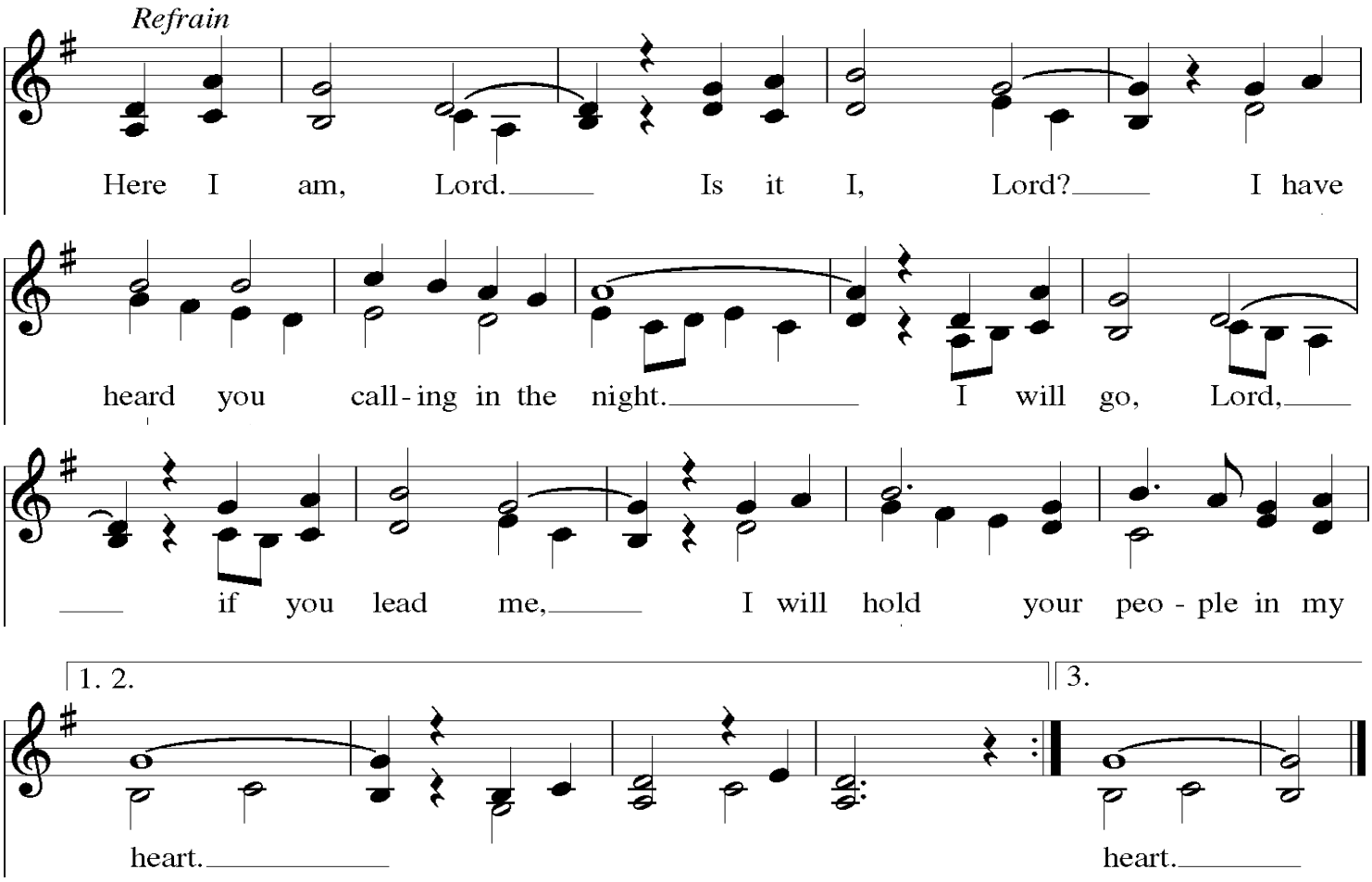
All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Here I Am Lord"

WLP 812





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**
11/8	Nancy R.	Terri C.	Kevin	Ella
11/15	Scott	Helena	Joe	Dave
11/22	Dave	Paul	Cath	Nancy W.
11/29	Joe	Sharon	Mary Ellen	Bobby C.

Eucharistic Ministers

Date	**Common Cup**	**Single Cup Tray**	**Collect Cups**
11/8	Michele	Nancy W.	Tom
11/15	Mike	Bobby C.	Walt
11/22	Nancy R.	Kevin	Dave
11/29	Helena	Joe	Deb

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2027 Pledge Update - With great joy and celebration, we share that our 2027 Pledge Campaign has reached $99,024 of our $100,000 goal!

Save the Date! Family Fun Day - November 8 following Worship
If you are planning to bowl, please arrive by 11 am to get checked in and get your shoes! There's still room for a few more bowlers!

Thanksgiving Food Shelf - We will need additional help with our Foodlink Delivery and bagging set up on 11/24, in preparation for our Distribution on 11/25. We are set on volunteers for Distribution!

Mark your Calendars - Thanksgiving Day Service & Celebration
Thursday, November 26th at 10 am. We will have some special treats following the service while watching some of the Macy's Day parade.

Looking ahead - Advent at SMSJ
Advent begins Sunday, November 29! Join us after Worship that day for an Advent Wreath making class and bring the light of Advent into your home. Stay tuned for information about formation opportunities on our YouTube channel with Pastors Cindy and Maria.

SMSJ WEEKLY CALENDAR

November 9 - November 15

Monday, 11/9	Office Closed
Tuesday, 11/10	1:00 pm - Food Shelf Bagging
Wednesday, 11/11	10:00 am - Staff Meeting 10:30 am-Noon - Food Shelf
Thursday, 11/12	
Saturday, 11/14	Office Closed
Sunday, 11/15	9:30 am - Worship Service

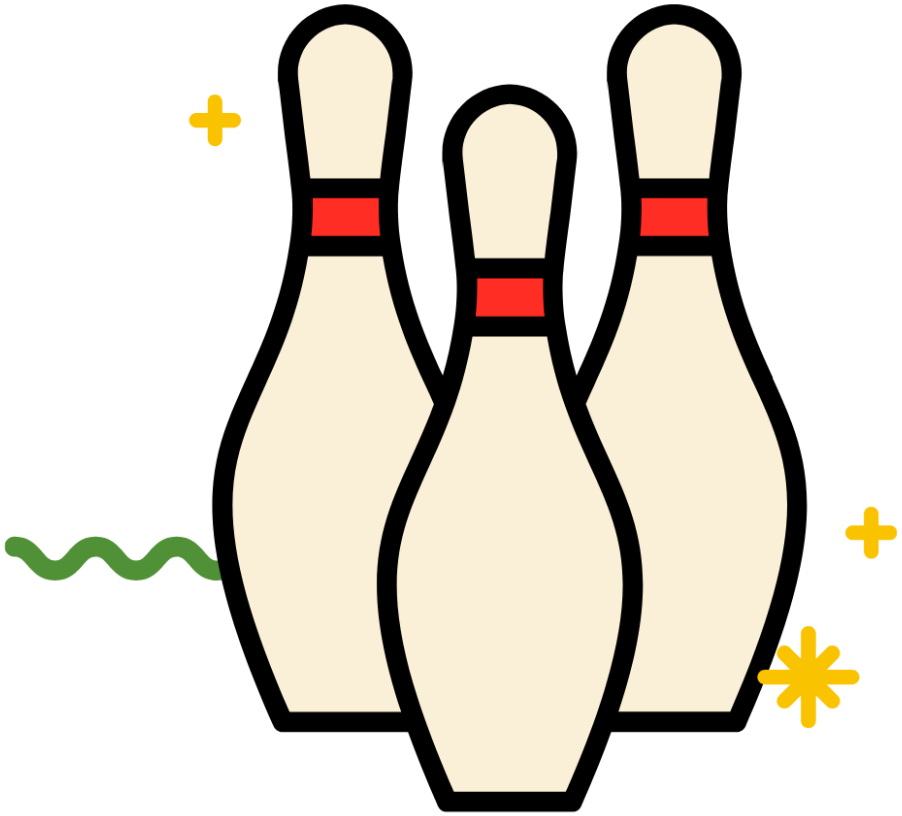
Next Vestry Meeting - Sunday, November 22 following Worship

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Faythe N. - Nov. 20 Mary Ann B. - Nov. 24 Cath B. - Nov. 26 Pastor Cindy - Nov. 28	Pastor Maria & Kristen - Nov. 1

FAMILY FUN DAY

AT RADIO SOCIAL



SUNDAY, NOV. 8 @ 11 AM

SMSJ will cover bowling lanes - **please RSVP by November 5 to Pastor Maria to reserve your spot to bowl** or swing by for food and fellowship!

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

AV Producer
Rob Thornton

Co-Wardens
Nancy Ramsay ('27)
Sharon Kowalski ('28)

Treasurer
Michele Holmes

Musician
Amelia Yousey

Vestry Members
Bob Caruso (Clerk)
Terri Censak ('29)
Dave Everson ('28)
Heather Gilfoy ('27)
Michele Holmes ('28)
Deb Snyder ('29)
Nancy Willer ('27)

Deacon Emeritus
The Rev'd Mike Finn

Diocesan Delegates
Bonnie Hallman-Dye ('28)
Nancy Ramsay ('26)
Ella Webster ('26)

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative
Terri Censak