

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

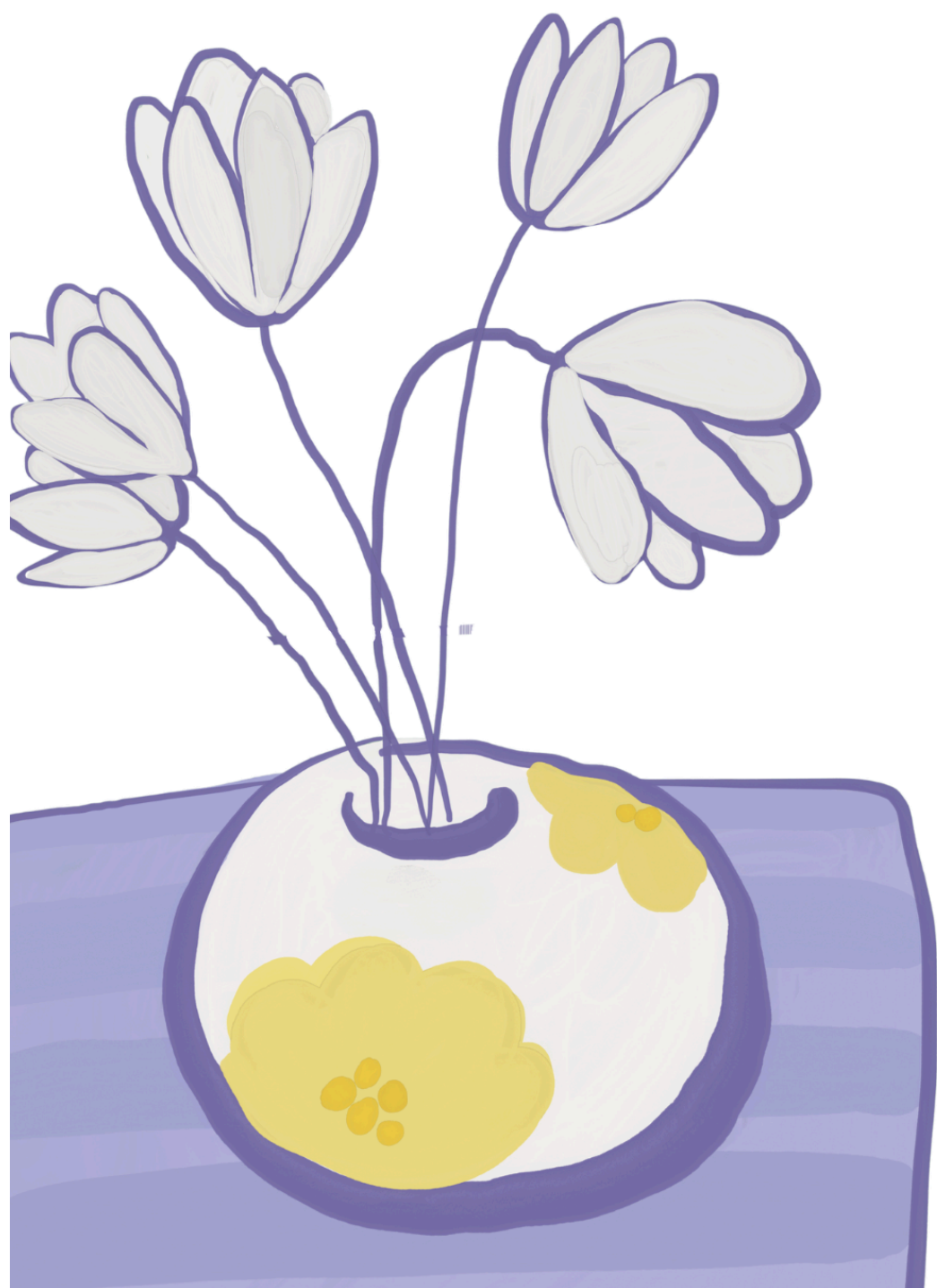
October 11,
2026

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

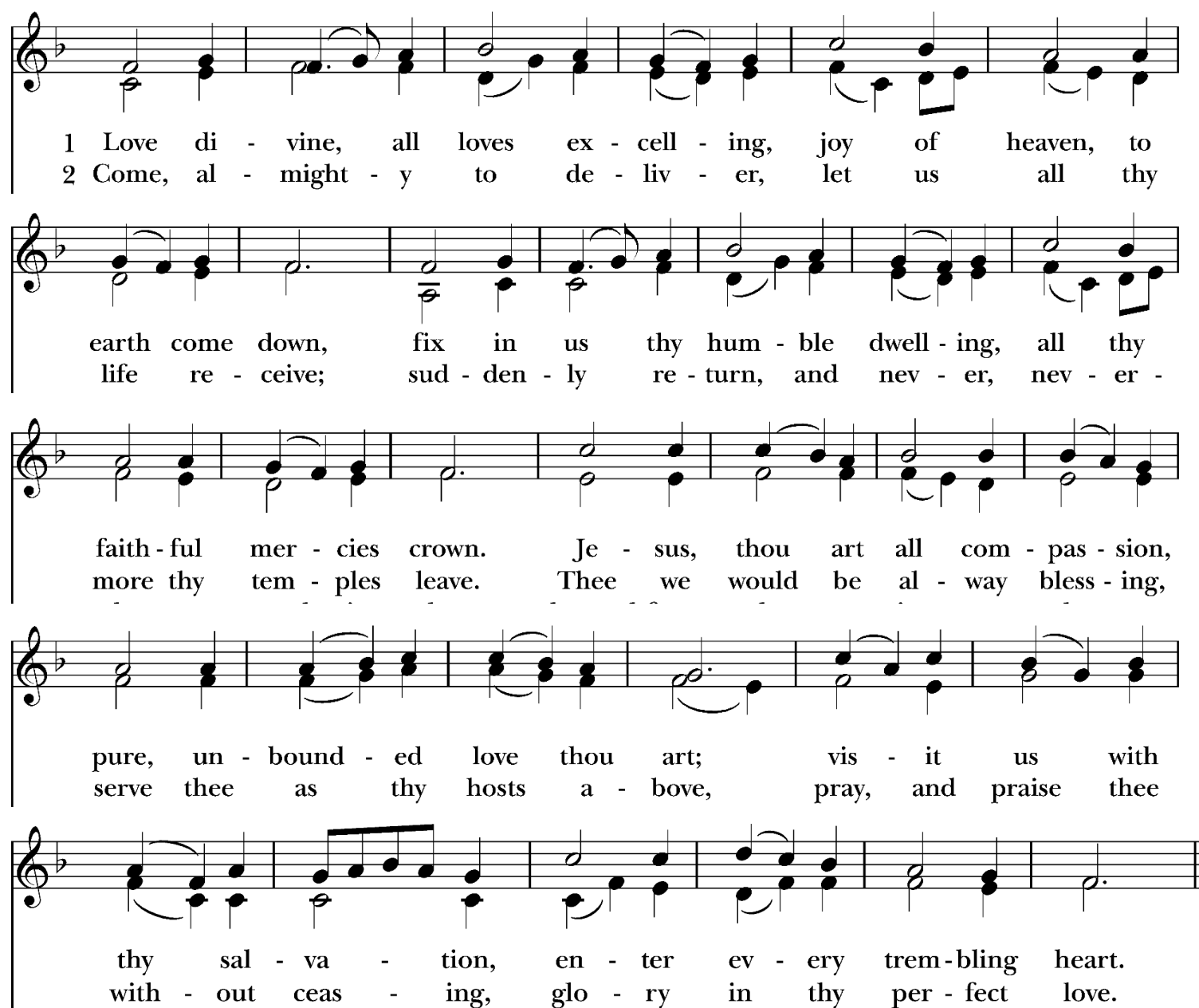
OPENING SENTENCE

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

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

H1982 657



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.

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.**

A reading from the book of Isaiah, the twenty-fifth chapter

O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;

for you have done wonderful things,

plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

For you have made the city a heap,

the fortified city a ruin;

the palace of aliens is a city no more,

it will never be rebuilt.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;

cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

For you have been a refuge to the poor,

a refuge to the needy in their distress,

a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,

you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;

the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines

strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from
all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have
waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

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

Psalm 23

Let us say Psalm 23 together

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.**

**You revive my soul and guide me along
right pathways for your name's sake.**

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**You spread a table before me in the presence
of those who trouble me; you have anointed**

**my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life, and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND LESSON*

“The Daily Bread”

The second lesson is a poem by Wendell Berry entitled “The Daily Bread”

Whatever is foreseen in joy
must be lived out from day to day.
Vision held open in the dark
by our ten thousand days of work.
Harvest will fill the barn; for that
the hand must ache, the face must sweat.
And yet no leaf or grain is filled
by work of ours; the field is tilled
and left to grace. That we may reap,
great work is done while we're asleep.
Cold darkness comes. The seed must lie
in winter night to learn to fly
in sunlit air. The flower holds
its seed; and all we love unfolds
into its darkness and is gone.
When we work well, a Sabbath mood
rests on our day, and finds it good.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Celtic Alleluia"

Sing three times



GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not

worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

Pastor Cindy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

E.D.E.N. Garden Mission

We Believe in God the Creator,

who forms the earth, breathes life into all living things, and calls us to be faithful stewards of creation. In every seed planted and every flower bloom, we see the reflection of God's abiding care, grace, and abundance for all people.

We Believe in the Power of Sacred Community,

that we are called to walk together in kindness, safety, and mutual respect. We honor the unique worth of every neighbor who enters our gardens and this building, creating a refuge of peace, warmth, and belonging where all are welcomed as children of God.

We Believe in the Spirit of Generosity and Joy,

that as we nurture the land and our this space, it nourishes our bodies, lifts our spirits, and restores our souls. We commit to sharing our harvest, our skills, and our time with humble hearts—giving freely, receiving gratefully, and honoring the dignity of every person who shares in this work.

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

"Take My Life"

VF 132



1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.



Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.



take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

"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.

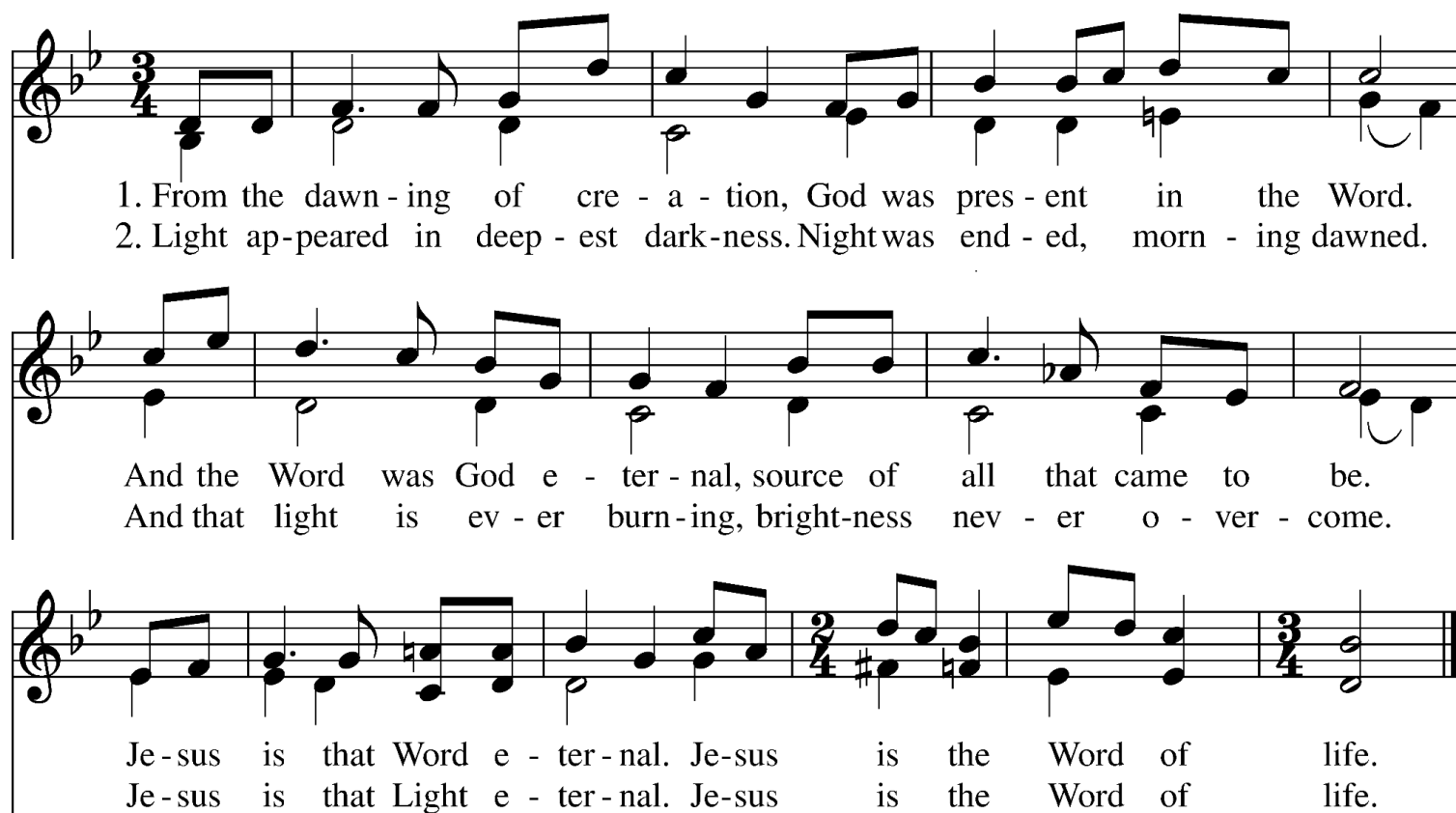
We who are many are one body,

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

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

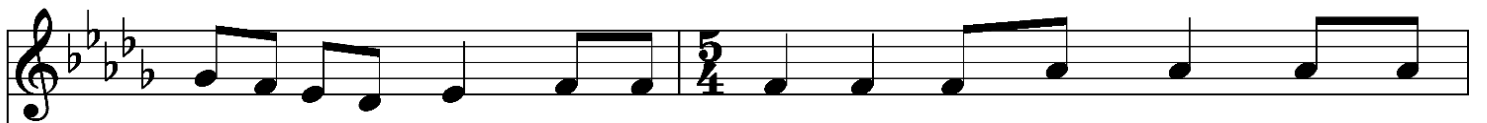
WLP 757



1. Will you come and fol - low me if
2. Will you leave your self be - hind if
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if
4. Will you love the "You" you hide if
5. Christ, your sum-mons ech - oes true when



I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and
I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and
I but call your name? Will you set the pris - 'ner free and
I but call your name? Will you quell the fear in - side and
you but call my name. Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? Will you let my love be shown? Will you
nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your
nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do
nev - er be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to re -
nev - er be the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your



let my Name be known? Will you let my life be grown in
life at - tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer prayer in
such as this un - seen? And ad - mit to what I mean in
shape the world a - round through my sight and touch and sound in
love and foot - steps show, thus I'll move and live and grow in

1. 2. 3. 4.

5. (Final Ending)



you and you in me?
you and you in me?
you and you in me?
you and you in me?

5. you and you in me.

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
10/11	Kevin	Cath	Ella	Walt
10/18	Dave	Mary Ellen	Dave	Bonnie
10/25	Joe	Michele	Nancy W.	Deb
11/1 All Saints	Sharon	Mike	Bobby C.	Heather

Eucharistic Ministers

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups	Commune Choir
10/11	Bobby C.	Deb	Sharon	<i>TBD</i>
10/18	Kevin	Heather	Ella	TBD
10/25	Joe	Ella	Terri C.	TBD
11/1 All Saints	Mary Ellen	Dave	Theresa	TBD

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?

Titan Service Scholars Overnight Retreat - Welcome to the Titan Service Scholars who joined us for an overnight service learning retreat last evening!

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.

Next Foodlink Delivery – Tuesday, October 20

Each month, our partners at Foodlink deliver over 3,000 lbs of food to our Kitchen door for us to distribute to our neighbors. This food needs to be brought in, set up for our bagging volunteers, and put away in our storage room. **We need more volunteers willing to be part of the rotation to unload the Foodlink truck.** Let

Pastor Maria know if you'd be willing to lend a hand once per month on a Tuesday morning.

Save the Date! Family Fun Day - November 8 following Worship

You're invited to Radio Social on Sunday, November 8 for bowling and brunch after worship! We will rent a bowling lane (or two) for you to join us! RSVP to Pastor Maria at mhartz@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.



SMSJ WEEKLY CALENDAR

October 12 - October 18, 2026

Monday, 10/12	Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day Office is closed
Tuesday, 10/13	1:00 pm - Food Shelf Bagging 4:00 pm - Gardening at EDEN 1199 5:00 pm - Gardening at EDEN Merchants
Wednesday, 10/14	9:00 am - Gardening at EDEN Church 10:30 am-Noon - Food Shelf 10:30 am - Staff Meeting
Thursday, 10/15	Evening - Crossroads of Caring Board Meeting
Saturday, 10/17	
Sunday, 10/18	9:30 am - Holy Eucharist 10:30 am - Stewarding Justice & Love

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*



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