ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
welcomes you!

October 18, 2026



The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

"SHINE" CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1ST SATURDAYS-CHAPEL)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM
EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

105 EAST "D" STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR
THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS

+ **To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshiping with us today! ***"Quiet Bags"*** (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to use the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).

+ An **accessible Restroom** is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level. **Parish Hall and additional Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

+ **Assistive listening devices** and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

+ **Land Acknowledgement:** This church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw**, **Myaamia**, **Kaskaskia**, and **Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

PRELUDE *"Come Christians Join to Sing"* *M. Hayes*

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*

Blessed be the Father, ☩Son, and Holy Spirit – the one God who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**
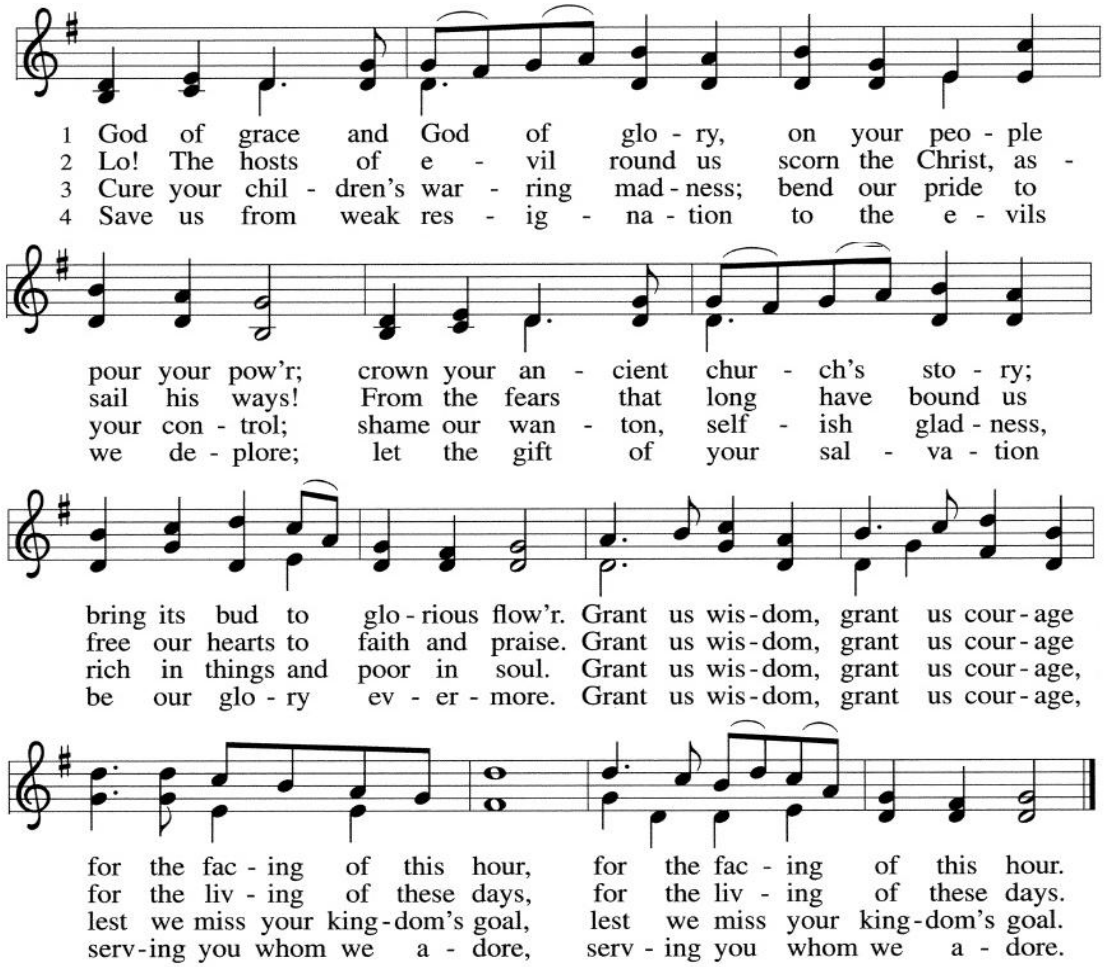
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

You may **KNEEL** *or* **remain as you are**. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive ☩ freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN **"God of Grace and God of Glory"** **ELW 705**



GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** *Following the prayer, please* **SIT.**

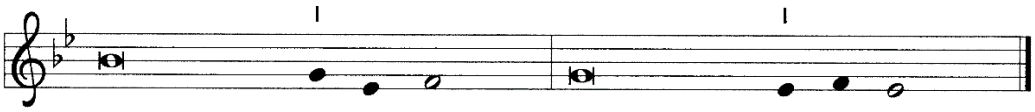
WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
2 I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
4 For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
5 I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
7 I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

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

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 *chanted responsively between choir and congregation*



[1] Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
[2] **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
[3] Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
[4] **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods.
[5] As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
[6] **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
[7] Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
[8] **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.
[9] Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

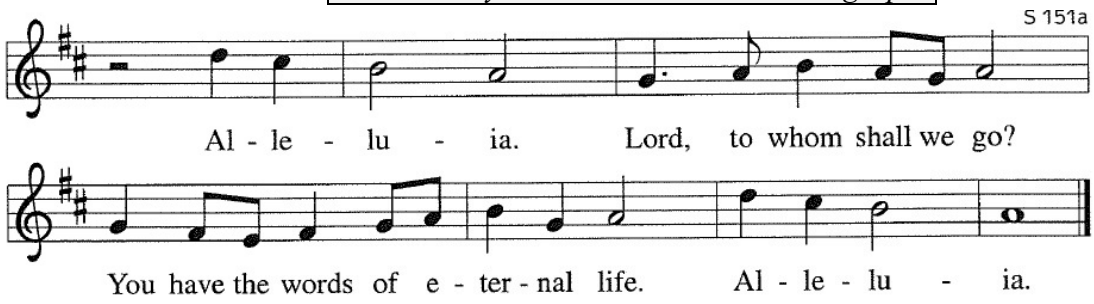
[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for despite persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For they report about us what kind of welcome we

had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly* **STANDS** *to welcome the gospel.*



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

A reading from the Holy Gospel… according to the apostle Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[15] The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. [16] So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. [17] Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" [18] But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? [19] Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. [20] Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" [21] They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." [22] When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.
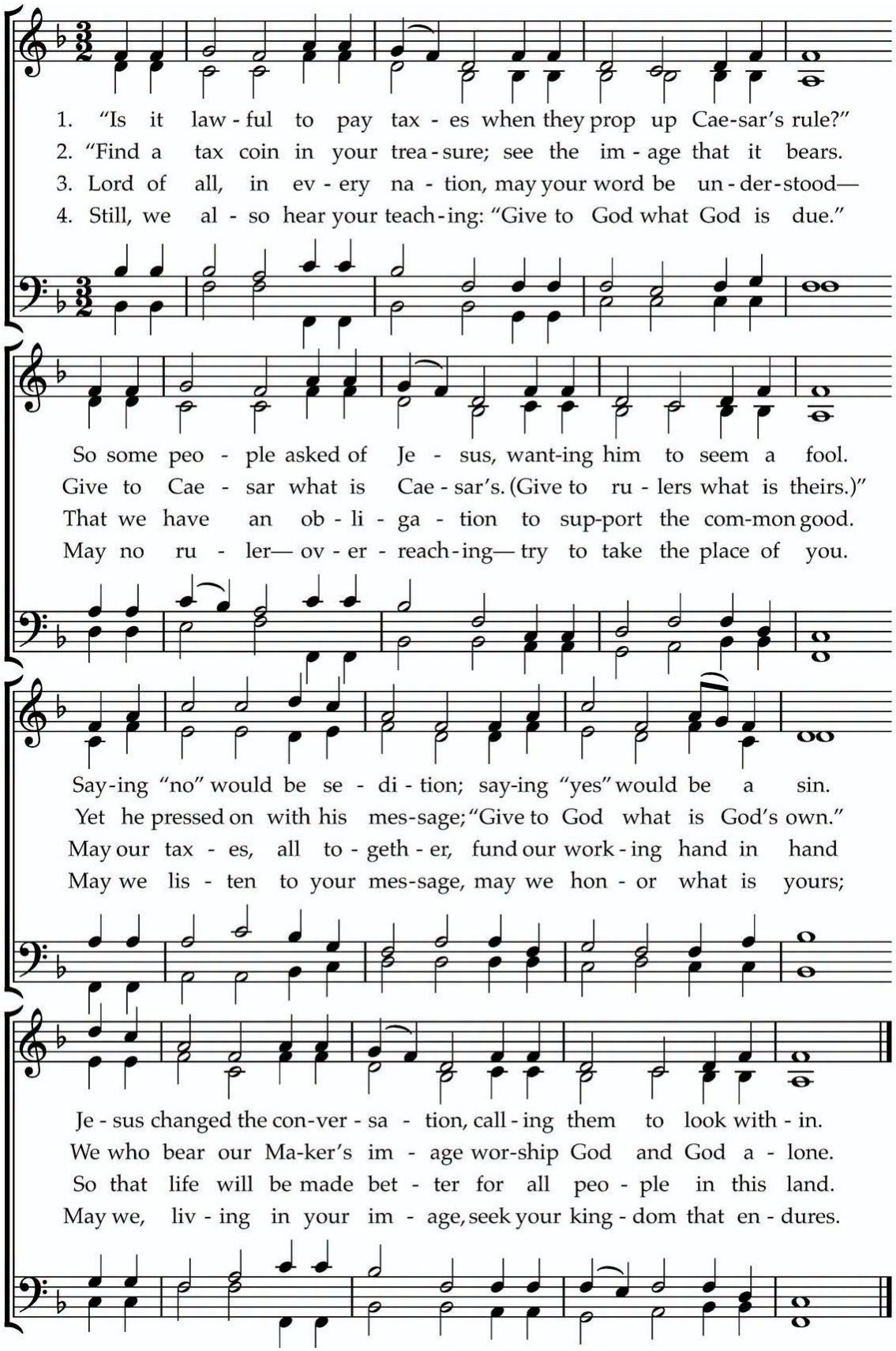
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please* **SIT**

SERMON *"Jesus at the Polling Place"* **The Rev. Brian M. Robison**, *pastor*



Following the sermon, the assembly **STANDS** *to proclaim the word of God in song.*

HYMN OF THE DAY **"Is it Lawful to Pay Taxes?"** *Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin. The response to "Hear us, O God," is* **"Your mercy is great."**

Ken Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Natalie & Cody** Best, **Don** Boatman, **Dave** Brauer, **Rob** Buck, **Cindy** Collingham, **Lorraine** Crannage, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage, **Michael** Foppe, **Ola** Fulton, **Mary** Hill, **Morris** Kugler, **Diane** Maes, **Bruce** Martens, **Lucy** Montgomery, **Ron** Neustadt, **Jon** Newton, **Tina** Partelow, **Marilyn** Robinson, **Wilma** Shroat, **Nancy** Tegtmeier, **Cohen** Summers, **Carol** Weshinskey, **Gary** Weshinskey, **Cheryl** Whitaker

PEACE *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Following* ***the Peace****, you may be* ***seated*** *for a few moments.*

CHOIR ANTHEM *"The Gift of Love"* Hal Hopson

OFFERING

Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.

OFFERING PRAYER *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*

Assistant: Let us pray together… **God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

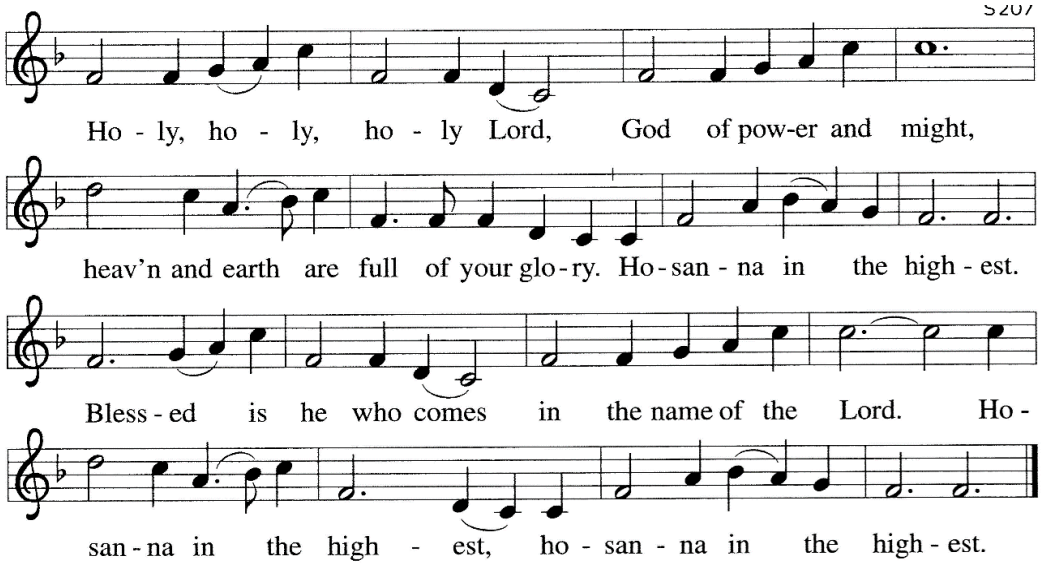
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

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

It is indeed right…we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
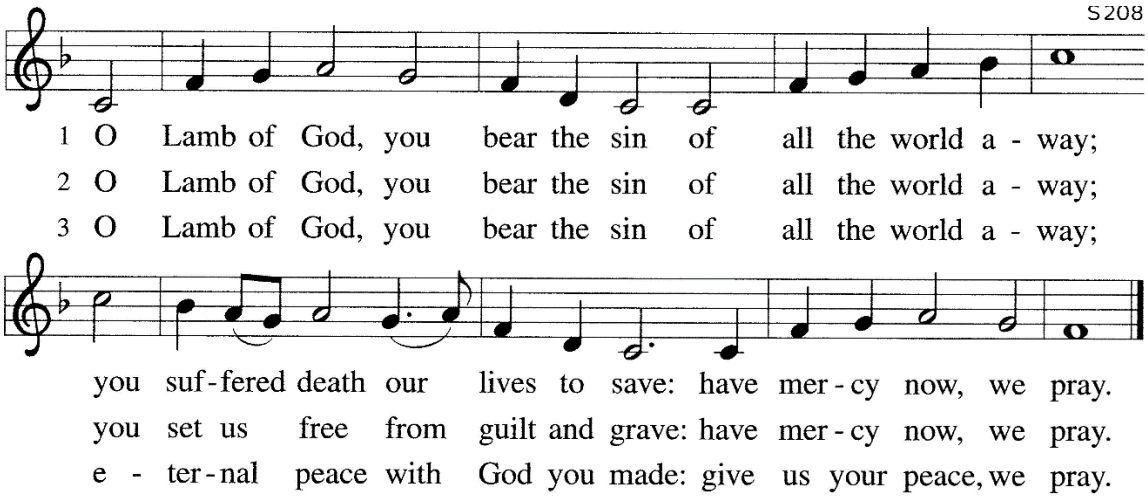
THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

LAMB OF GOD *Please* SIT



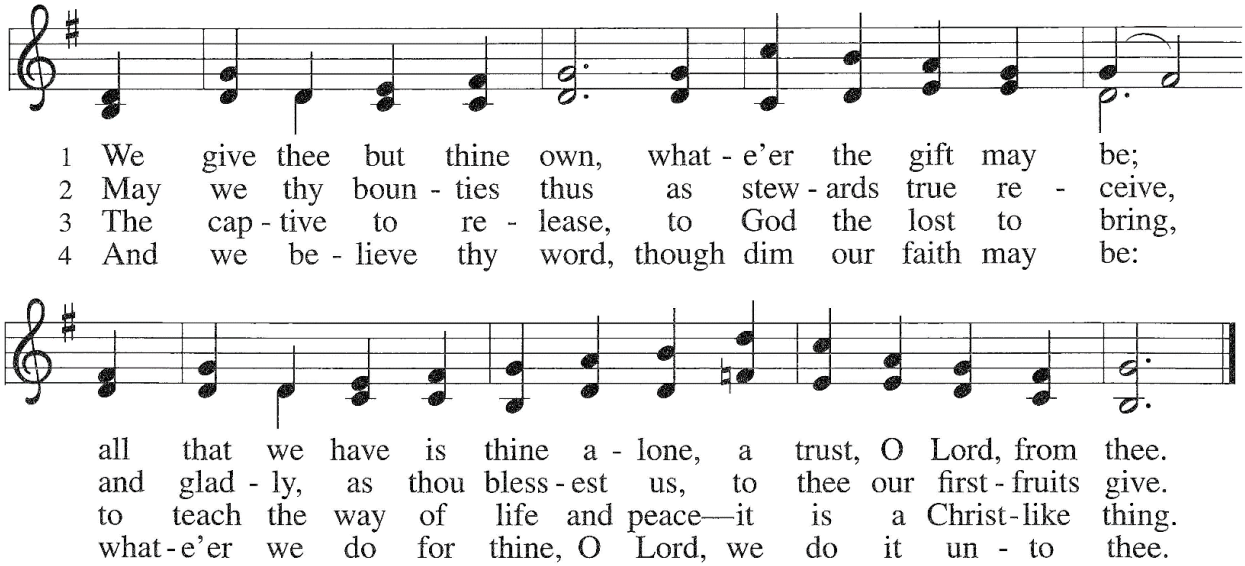
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is open to everyone. *In this sacrament,* ***we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine***. *At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*
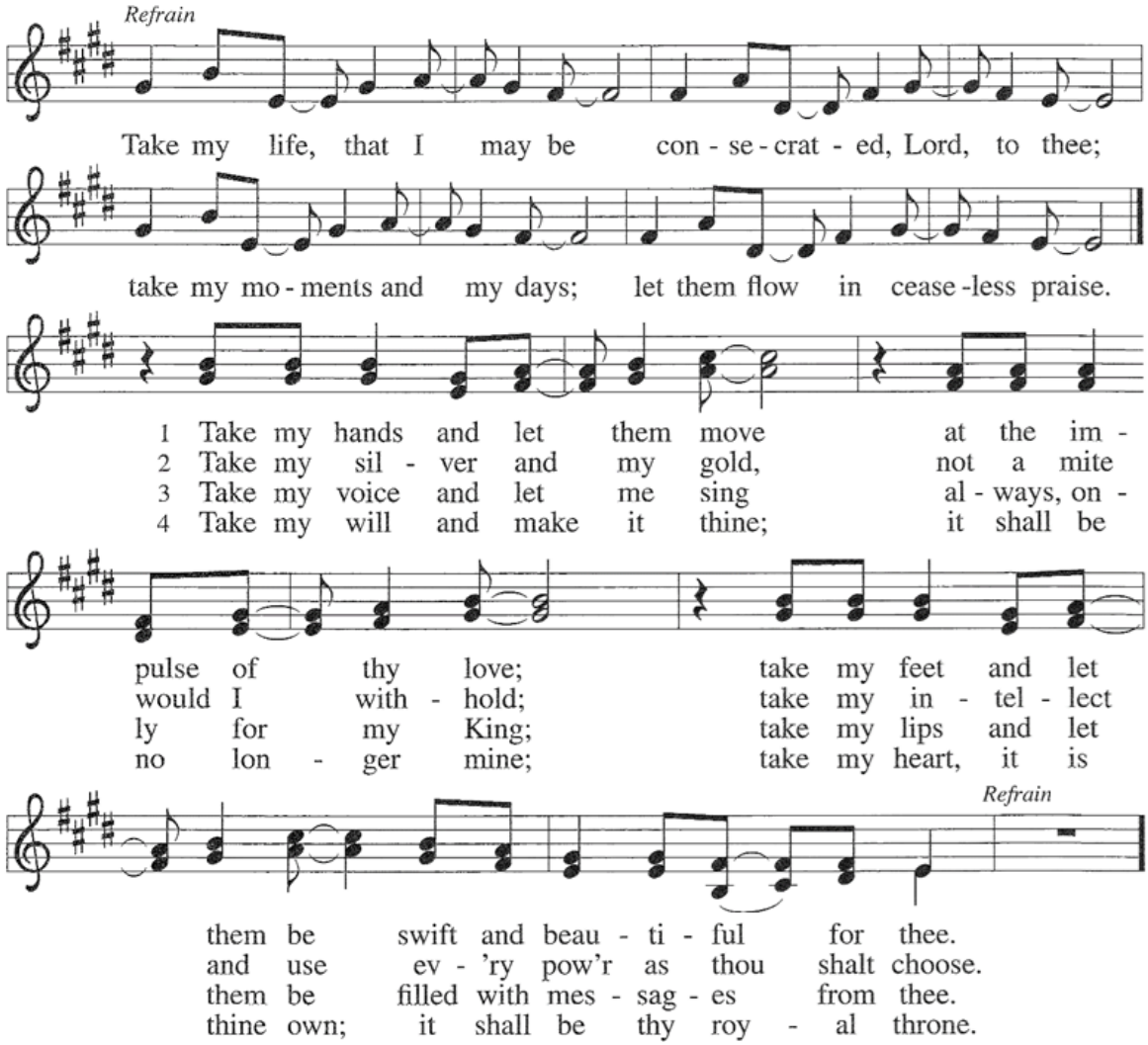
- ✠ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✠ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✠ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✠ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✠ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

"We Give Thee But Thine Own" ELW 686



"Take My Life That I May Be" ELW 583

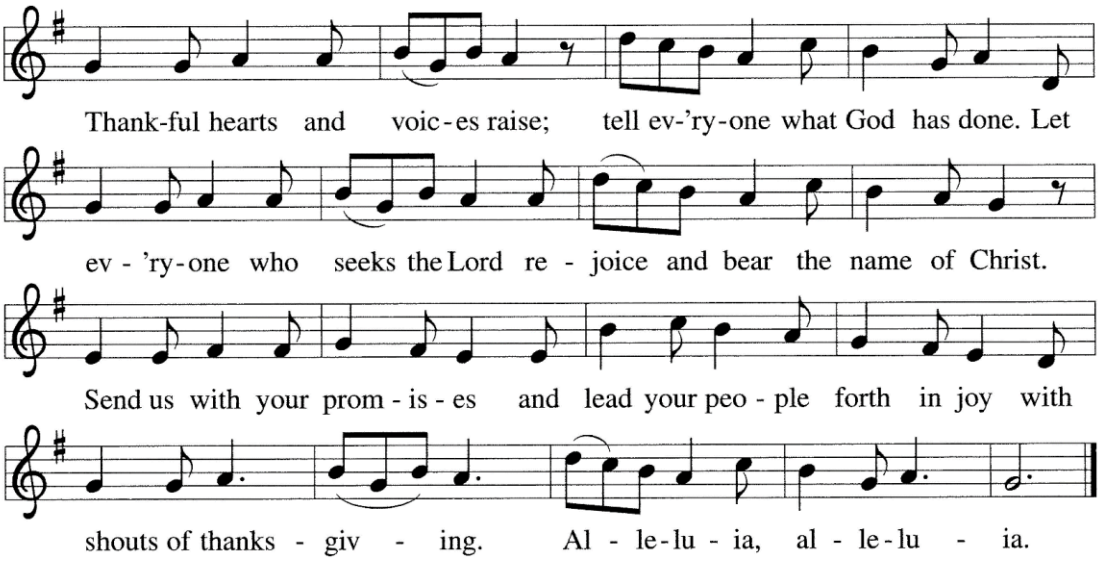


After the distribution is complete, please **STAND** *as you are able for the blessing.*

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" ELW 207



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together…

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

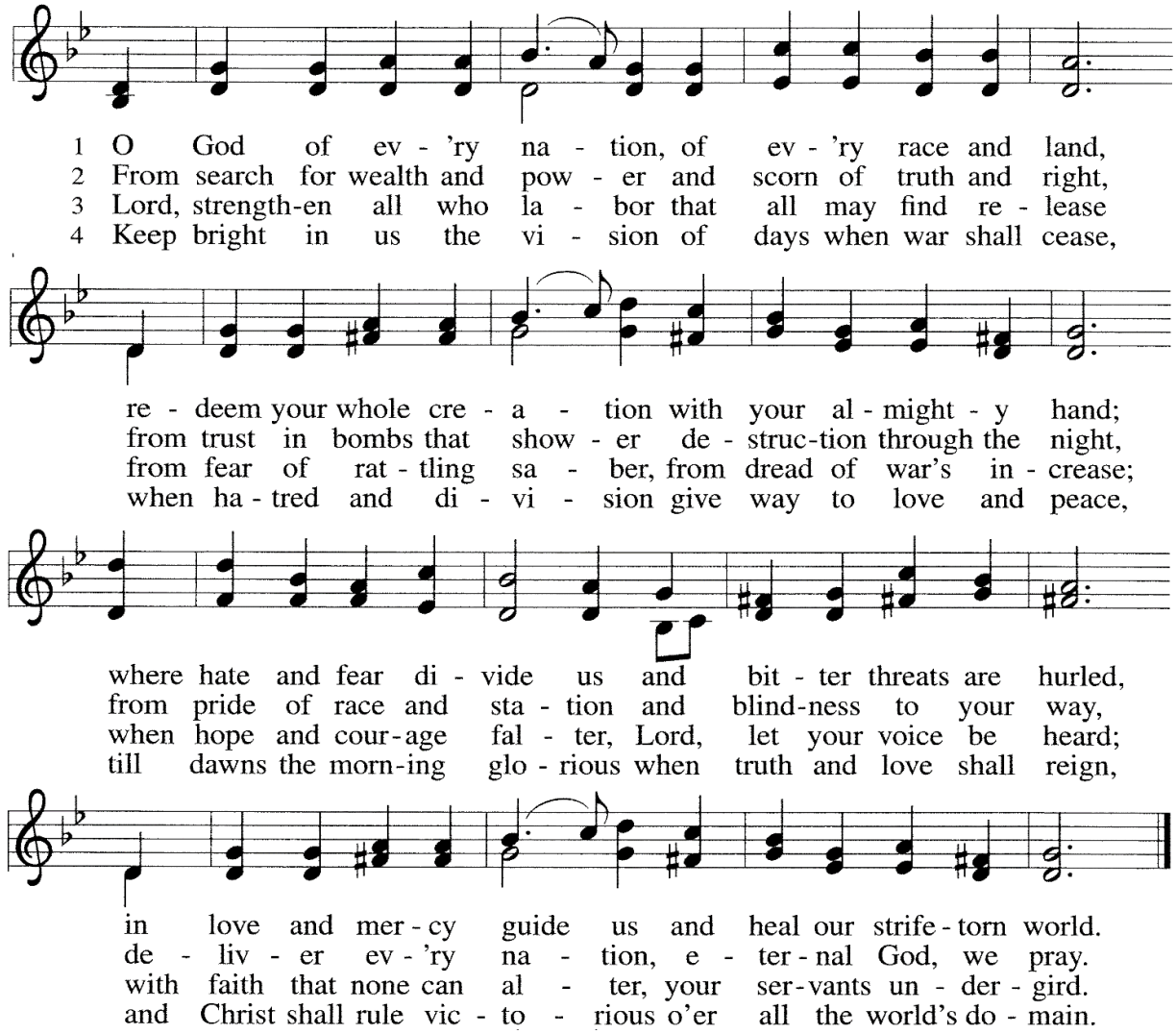
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances

through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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SENDING HYMN **"O God of Every Nation"** **ELW 713**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *"Now Thank We All Our God"* *J. Dixon*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Greg Guenther
Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp + **Chalice Bearer:** Mike Murakami + **Lector:** Aaron Fuchs
Tech Minister: Melanie Robison + **Safety Volunteer:** Frank Dressel
Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Danielle Tribout & TBD

Prayer Intentions

Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Natalie & Cody Best, Don Boatman, Dave Brauer, Rob Buck, Cindy Collingham, Lorraine Crannage, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Michael Foppe, Ola Fulton, Mary Hill, Morris Kugler, Diane Maes, Bruce Martens, Lucy Montgomery, Ron Neustadt, Jon Newton, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Wilma Shroat, Cohen Summers, Nancy Tegtmeier, Carol Weshinskey, Gary Weshinskey, Cheryl Whitaker

Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Bert Alvarez, Stellamarie Bearth, John Belz, Jim Boeving, Thomas Boxdorfer, Patty Brennecke, Patrick Campbell, Susan Carson, Christine, Liliam Coleman, Robyn Combs, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Maryann Fernandez, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Goodall, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Glenna Hamilton, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Rachel Knicely, Austin Lickenbrock, Dusty Little, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Bobby McCall, Don McCoy, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Lana Perry, Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Larry Powers, Denise Sebastian, James Showmaker, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Tom Stookey, Ingrid Thompson, Gary Timm, Pat Tubbs, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Molly Witherell, Karen Woolf, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Joshua Anthony, Ethan Collins, Tom Fox, Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie, Amy Morgan

Members celebrating birthdays this week

Marva Dowty (10/19), Jack Geppert (10/23), and Lucy Montgomery (10/24)

Members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Jerry & Cynthia Southers (10/19) and Bonnie & Mike Schaefer (10/20)

St. Mark Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
Administrative Assistant: Randi Cardoza + **Music Director**: Carol Kugler
Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Parish Nurse:** Becky Schnitzius
Pastor *Emeritus*: The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt

MARK TIMES *News & Notes for October 18, 2026*

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, October 19:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts – Westfield Manor
Wednesday, October 21:	10:15AM	Health & Wellness meeting – *Conference Room*
Thursday, October 22:	4:15PM	Voice Choir
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – *Parish Hall*
Saturday, October 24:	6:00PM	Reformation Potluck and Hymn Sing-a-Long

Adult Forum: *Witchcraft: Strictly Taboo?, Part 2*



Two weeks ago we looked at what the **Bible** says about **witchcraft** and how the **church** wrestled with it across two thousand years. Today, join Pastor Brian for Part 2 as we explore what Lutheran teaching says today, including a look at a living reality for our own Lutheran communion: sister churches across Africa who handle witchcraft accusations and exorcism ministry as ordinary pastoral work. All are welcome (pointy hats encouraged, but not required!).



Reformation Dinner & Hymn Fest NEXT SATURDAY

Join us **next Saturday** evening, **October 24 from 6-8PM** in the **Parish Hall** for an evening of **Reformation Day fellowship** with a classic **Lutheran potluck** and a beloved old-fashioned **hymn-sing**! **A sign-up** sheet to bring a dish is **in the Parish Hall**.

SHARE THE WARMTH October 4 thru 25, 2026

Continuing to be inspired by "Phillip's Wish" in the movie ***5000 Blankets*** and the needs of our food pantry clients, a collection of gently worn **coats, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, t-shirts, undershirts, socks, hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs**, etc. will be collected for the homeless in our area. **Mylar/mylar "space" blankets**, other gently used blankets, **handwarmers** and **new underwear for men and women** are also greatly appreciated. Donations may be distributed to various organizations throughout the project period with donation numbers provided at the end of the collection. A collection container will be in the Narthex/Canterbury Room next Sunday. Please feel free to contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 with any questions.

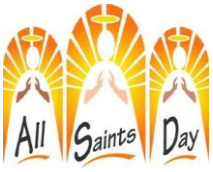


~~Second~~ THIRD Sunday Food Collection

We're collecting **jellies/jams, peanut butter, soups/chili, and canned fruit** this month for our **food pantry.** Please place them in the big basket as you come into church, or bring them by the office between 9am and 3pm, Monday-Friday.

The 50th anniversary committee will meet this morning at 10:30AM in the Parish Hall near the library

Our All Saints Sunday worship service is **Sunday, <u>November 1</u>** at 9:00AM.



Names of deceased loved ones may be entered into our Book of Remembrance, which is now on the St. Mark table in the Narthex. **You are welcome and encouraged to write names of *any* deceased loved ones you wish to remember**. You may also contact the church office (office@stmarkbelleville.org) to add a someone to the list. ***Please have your names written or submitted by noon on <u>Thursday, October 29</u>.****

All written names will be included in the worship folder, but **only** the names of those **who have died over the past year** will be **read during the service**, with a single toll of a bell after each name. Please mark a **star** or an **asterisk** next to the names of loved ones who have died in the last year.

St. Mark 50th Anniversary celebration!

St. Mark Lutheran Church turns 50 years old in December, and the anniversary committee has been hard at work planning events! A year of celebration kicks off on **Saturday, December 5 at 10:30AM** with a commemorative **worship service** in the place where it all started: the **Belleville Philharmonic Hall**. A luncheon in our Parish Hall follows. Watch for sign-up sheets and invitations in a couple of weeks!

Downtown Belleville Trick-or-Treat on Friday, October 30!



We're going **COOKIE CRAZY** at this year's Halloween event!! We will have <u>three booth spaces</u> from which to hand out hot chocolate, pre-packaged cookies, and where **COOKIE MONSTER** will take photos with kids (and adults!)

<u>VOLUNTEERS needed</u>! Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and the Parish Hall.

1) SET UP 3:30 TO 5:00PM: <u>4-5 PEOPLE</u> to load two 8' tables, two half-tables and 6 chairs at the church and set them up at our space on East Main, unload and set-up 2-3 10 x 10 canopies and transport 5-gallon containers of hot chocolate/water from the church to our space. Hang church signs and decorate the space after the canopies are set up.

2) HOT CHOCOLATE PREP: 3:30 TO 4:45PM: <u>2 PEOPLE</u> to heat water, fill containers and mix hot chocolate

3) HANDOUT HOT CHOCOLATE, and COOKIES: 5:00 to 7:30: <u>4-6 PEOPLE</u> volunteer for an hour, 2 hours, or the full 2.5 hours.

4) TEARDOWN/CLEAN UP 7:30 TO 8:15PM: <u>4 PEOPLE</u> to pack up remaining products, break down tables, canopies, & decorations, load and return items to the church and unload them.

We will also need a couple of folks to make sure Cookie Monster doesn't eat all the goodies!!!

Food Pantry Fundraiser

WE have The Meats on **Tuesday, October 27**! St. Mark/St. G's Food Pantry is sponsoring a fund raising event at **Arby's** at **Belleville Crossing**. Visit any time during their serving hours; drive-thru or dine-in are both acceptable! **You <u>must</u>** show the **flyer** or **mention the Food Pantry** event *prior to ordering*. We will receive 20% of all orders after $100 is spent. Tell your family and friends and help the pantry! Flyers will be available in the narthex/Canterbury Room.

St. Mark Offerings for 10/11: General Fund: **$4,059**;