

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY November 3, 2024

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church Hamilton, New Jersey

A family of faith, rooted in Word and Sacrament, proclaiming the redeeming love of Jesus Christ through worship, nurture, and service.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In this year's All Saints readings, Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. Today, we bring our grief to the table and find a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME

Prelude

During the prelude, you are invited to bring photos of loved ones who have died to the two tables at the communion rail if you have not done so already. When we sing the gathering hymn following the time of remembrance below, you will have an opportunity to light candles in memory of your loved ones.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

People of God, we gather on this day to remember the saints who went before us: the people near to our hearts who showed us what it means to live faithfully, lovingly, courageously. We have surrounded our altar with their photos. We name them now:

Members of St. Mark who have died since last year's All Saints observance are named. A lit candle floats in the baptismal font for each person.

> Robert Domboski Elwood Thomas Tryon Marjorie Sawadski Heinz August Arzt Irene Keks Elizabeth Pulliam

God, we name others we love who have died:

You are invited to name deceased loved ones aloud or silently now.

God of all that was and is and is to come, we thank you for the saints with whom we have shared our lives. Let our memories of them become sources of blessing and beacons of love. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

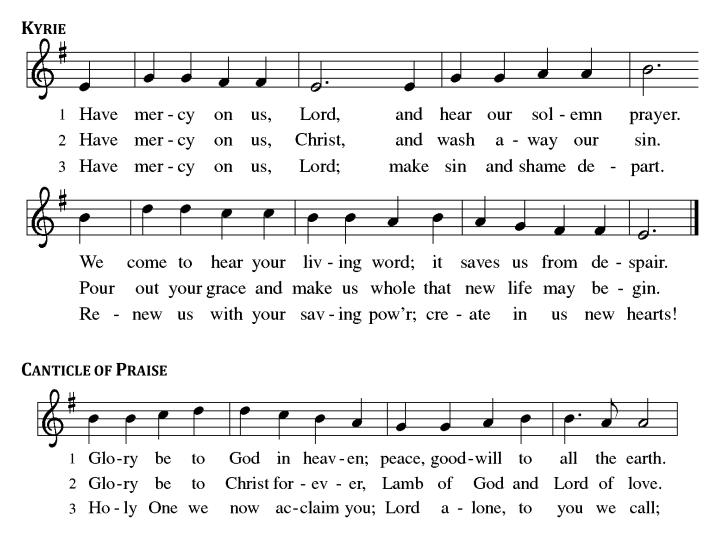
During the hymn, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in memory of your loved ones who have died.



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.

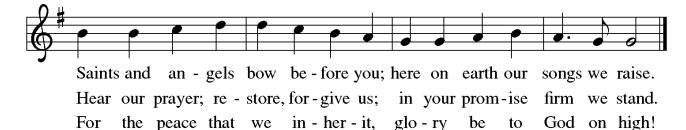




Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ And God will destroy on this mountain
 - the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
 - the covering that is spread over all nations;
 - ⁸ God will swallow up death forever.
- Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the people God will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.
- ⁹ It will be said on that day,
 - "See, this is our God; we have waited for God, so that God might save us.
 - This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
 - let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** PSALM 24

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all | that is in it, the world and those who | dwell therein.

² For the LORD has founded it up- | on the seas and established it up- | on the rivers.

³ Who may ascend the mountain | of the LORD, and who may stand in God's | holy place?

⁴ Those of innocent hands and puri- | ty of heart, who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by | what is false.
⁵ They shall receive blessing | from the LORD and righteousness from the God of | their salvation.
⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek | you, O LORD, of those who seek your face, O | God of Jacob.
⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors, that the King of glory | may come in.

⁸ Who is this | King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- | y in battle!

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors, that the King of glory | may come in.

¹⁰ Who is this | King of glory?

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the | King of glory.

SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-6a

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

God will dwell with them;

they will be God's peoples,

and God will be with them and be their God;

 $^4\,\mathrm{God}$ will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."

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

Please stand as you are comfortable.



GOSPEL: John 11:32-44 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

This is the good news of the gospel. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are comfortable.



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 INTERCESSION

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O God of resurrection, you call us by name and raise us to life. Rouse your church from slumber. Where we have held back in fear or shame, unbind us. Embolden us in our proclamation of your good news, that all may know abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God of creation, you have founded your world on rivers and seas. Preserve fresh water sources and the creatures who call them home. Heal places of pollution and nourish places of drought. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God of the earth, you reign over all nations and peoples. Inspire us with wisdom and discernment as we elect legislators and leaders. May they govern with justice and uphold the dignity of all people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God of heaven, you make your home among mortals. Come alongside those who weep this day. Befriend all who are lonely, encourage those in despair, and heal any who are suffering. Abide with your faithful ones in love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

O God who serves, you set before us a feast of rich food. Sustain our ministries of fellowship and hospitality. Strengthen the hands and hearts of all who prepare and serve food for our nourishment.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share a sign of peace – a smile, a wave, a handshake – with the words "Peace be with you."

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Offering plates are located by the entrances to the sanctuary. Your gifts support St. Mark, its mission, and its partnerships with local, statewide, and national partners.

Please stand as you are comfortable.



OFFERING PRAYER Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE 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.

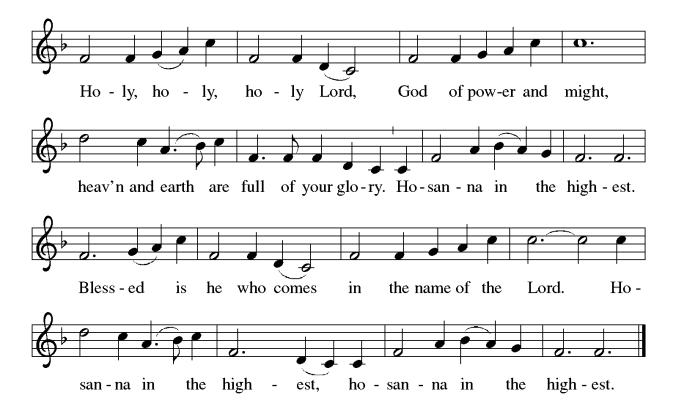
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling

and strengthen us to run the race set before us,

that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints,

with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessing, honor, and glory are yours, O God, eternal source of all creation. You are mightier than the thunder of waters, mightier than the waves of the sea. You are majesty on high.

Yet when the time was right, you sent your child Jesus, a vulnerable infant of low estate, to testify to the truth of power made known in your embracing love. Jesus came to raise up the poor and cast down the mighty. He taught us, like no other, that your reign is one of forgiveness, where human needs are daily met and we are set free for love.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus gathered his friends for a meal. He took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.* Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and this meal, that we will be fed with the body and blood of your Child and filled with your life-giving Spirit. Unite us to Christ and to one another from every tribe, people, language, and nation to reveal your justice in the world. Crown us with your holy wisdom so that we will never lose sight of your reign of peace.

All this we ask through your beloved, Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns in glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, saying: **Our Father in heaven**.

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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 forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

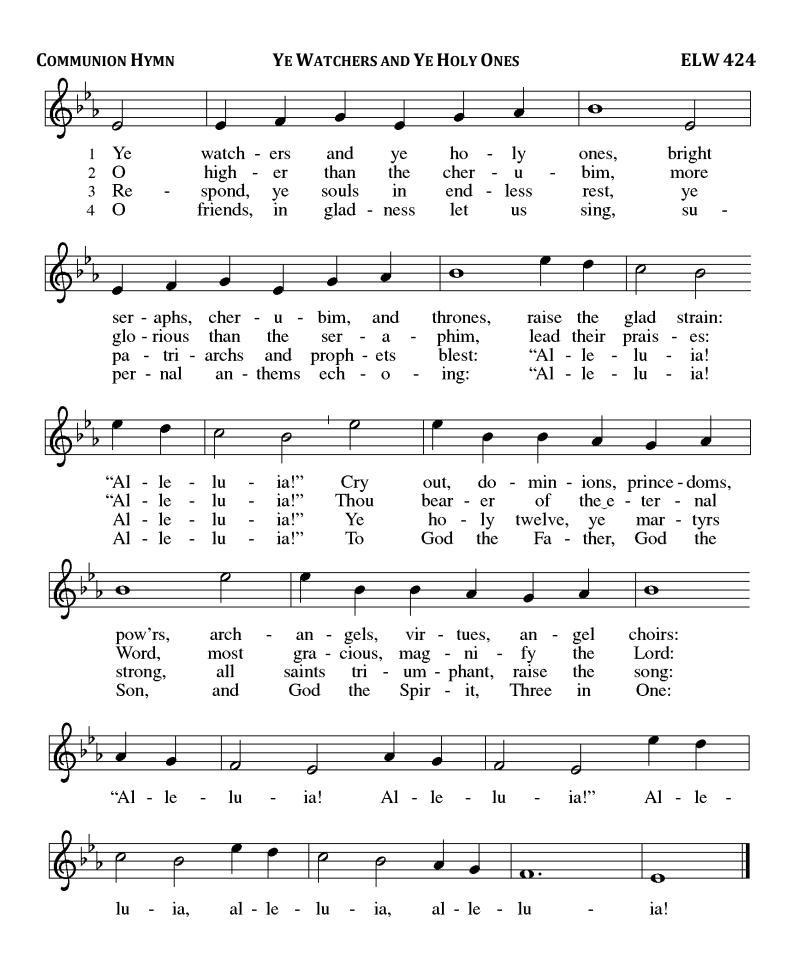
Jesus invites you to this table. Come, here is your God. These are the gifts of God for the people of God, holy things for holy people, and they are for you.

At St. Mark, we share communion with wheat and gluten-free wafers, wine, and juice. Everyone is welcome to receive communion, regardless of religious background or age.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION SONG







Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it, Christ has passed the e-ter - nal gates. when, a - mid earth's clos-ing thun-ders, saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

Please stand as you are comfortable.

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

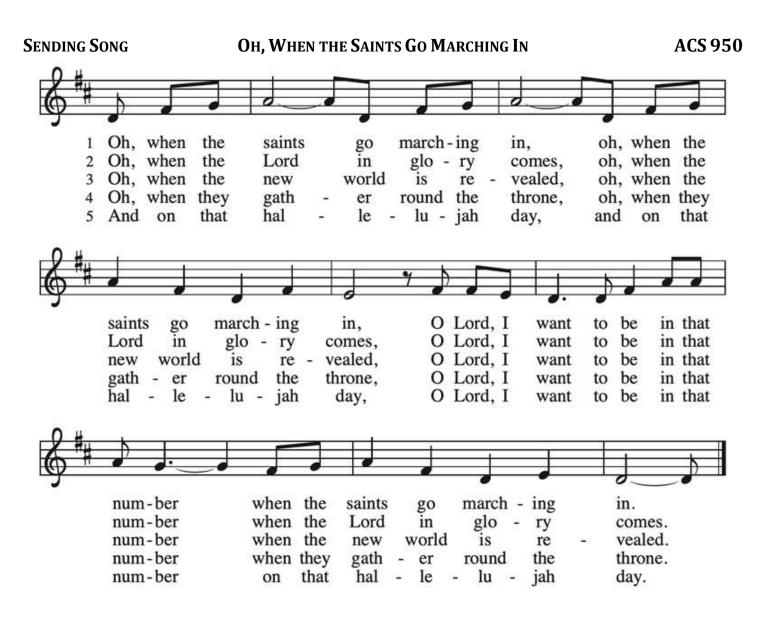
Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful bless you, keep you, and give you peace. Amen.



DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to today's worship leaders and staff! Lector: Carol Kasabach Communion Assistant: Carol Kasabach Ushers: Mary Hoh and Ginny Bogart Livestream Operator: Jody Hodge Church Administrator: Robin Harris Minister of Music: John Kling Pastor: Rev. Linnéa Clark Ministers: People of St. Mark

Worship with Us

We gather for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am (a full-length, more formal service) and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (a shorter, more informal service). You are always welcome.

We host Peace of Mindfulness, a mindfulness meditation class, on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Serve with Us

We welcome volunteers every Sunday after worship to help with Lunches with Love, which prepares lunches for clients of HomeFront. Recently, we shared our 14,000th lunch! Contact Karen Breninghouse (kbreninghouse@gmail.com) for more information.

Contact Us

You can reach our office at admin@stmarkhamilton.org and at (609) 585-7087.

You can reach Pastor Linnéa Clark directly at pastor@stmarkhamilton.org or at (215) 620-4977 in case of emergency.

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