The Lutheran Church of St. Mark
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Stewardship Sunday
Breakfast Church
God's Grace Leads to Our Grace
November 8, 2026

WELCOME TO ALL WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP THE LORD TODAY!

*Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.*
**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*
*The responses of the people are printed in **bold.***

WELCOME & PRAYER REQUEST

PRELUDE

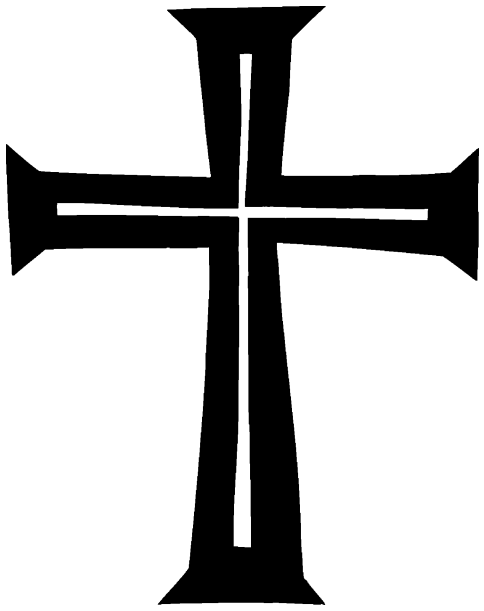
*We gather in the name of the Father and the ☩ Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Lord God,

We come before You with hearts overflowing with thanksgiving and praise. We are deeply grateful for Your countless blessings and unwavering love that sustain us each day. Psalm 136 declares, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

May our worship today be a true reflection of our gratitude, honoring You with every word and deed. Let our expressions of thanks and praise rise like a sweet aroma to You, celebrating Your boundless goodness and faithfulness. May we remain ever mindful of Your blessings and be inspired to live lives that continually give You glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



*GATHERING HYMN *All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir*

In Genesis God gives humans dominion over creation. Our stewardship of the earth begins with recognizing that we are only part of God's creation and that plants and animals are to be cared for.

*APOSTOLIC 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.**

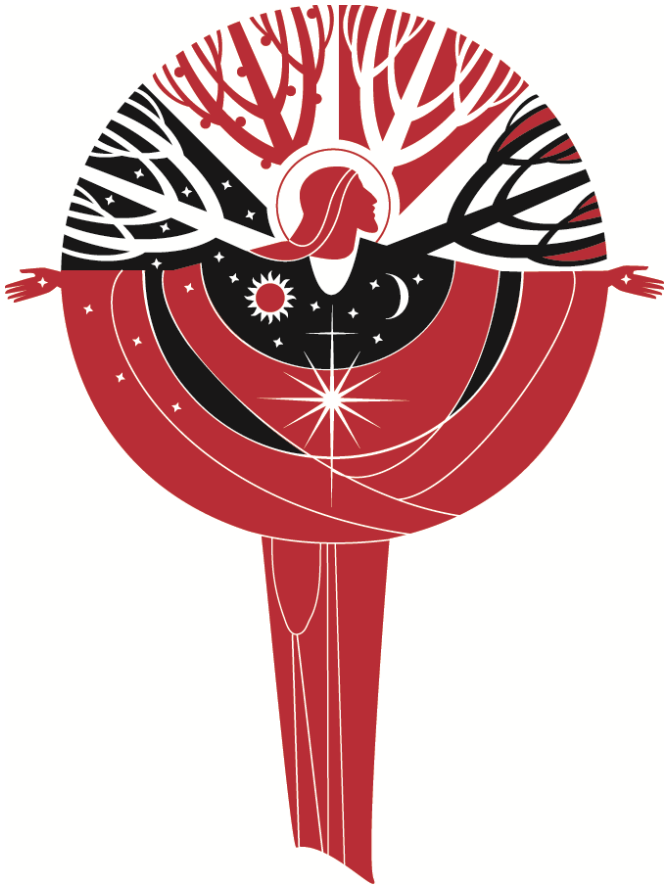
*HYMN OF PRAISE *Down to the River to Pray* (trad. Amer.)

The ultimate gift of God is our salvation, as renewed in our baptism. So let's get down to the river and pray.



OLD TESTAMENT — ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

Stewardship is not done in a vacuum. Wars, hate, love, and goodness are around us. We have to navigate politics, illness, aging, and societal norms. This song reminds us of the totality of life by presenting opposites. We do not have control, but are reminded of God's sovereignty over life.



PSALM — *God's Grace*

Original lyrics by Cho Eun-ah/ adaptation by Jan Frick

Our stewardship theme is God's Grace leads to Our Grace. In a group or community setting, one thinks of the community actions: i.e. Week-end food bags, community use, church garden. This hymn, made known to us by our Korean friends, changes Our Grace to Your Grace: God's Grace leads to Your Grace.

(Cantor)

The Lord is our God and Father, Maker of each one of us.
The Lord is our God and Shepherd, calling us to follow the Way.
The Lord is our God, Redeemer, sending us in love and grace.
By the grace of God Almighty, we are who we are today.

We can run the race with Jesus, until all have reached the end.
We can breathe our last breath trusting in God's peace that never ends.
We can carry our cross in this life for God's glory, joy and love.
By the grace of God Almighty, we are who we are today.

How awesome and immeasurable it is, the endless grace of God must be.
Grace and mercy surround us every day, grace that lovingly overwhelms me.
No fear and no more delaying, we run the race toward the heavenly goal.
For God's grace has kept us safely, God's amazing grace alone.

The Lord is your God, your Maker, the One who formed you in the womb.
The Lord is your God, your Shepherd, calling you to follow the Way.
The Lord is your God, Redeemer, sending you in love and grace.
By the grace of God Almighty, you can share your grace today.

*Gospel Acclamation *Children Go Where I Send Thee*

Stewardship requires intentional action, movement, and effort. This spiritual, used as a training mnemonic, reminds us that God does not send us out without support and guidance.
Also, guess what season is fast approaching.

1. *Children, go where I send thee*; *How shall I send thee?*
I'm gonna send thee one by one:
One for the little bitty baby.
Born, born, *born in Bethlehem.*

2. *Children, go where I send thee*; *How shall I send thee?*
I'm gonna send thee two by two:
Two for Paul and Silas,
One for the little bitty baby.
Born, born, *born in Bethlehem.*

3. *Children, go where I send thee*; *How shall I send thee?*
I'm gonna send thee three by three:
Three for the Hebrew children,
Two for Paul and Silas,
One for the little bitty baby.
Born, born, *born in Bethlehem.*

4. *Children, go where I send thee*; *How shall I send thee?*
I'm gonna send thee four by four:
Four for the Gospel writers,
Three for the Hebrew children,
Two for Paul and Silas,
One for the little bitty baby.
Born, born, *born in Bethlehem.*

*GOSPEL READING — MATTHEW 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young
women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and
five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise
took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became
drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come
out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The
foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 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.' 10 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. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he
replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither
the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

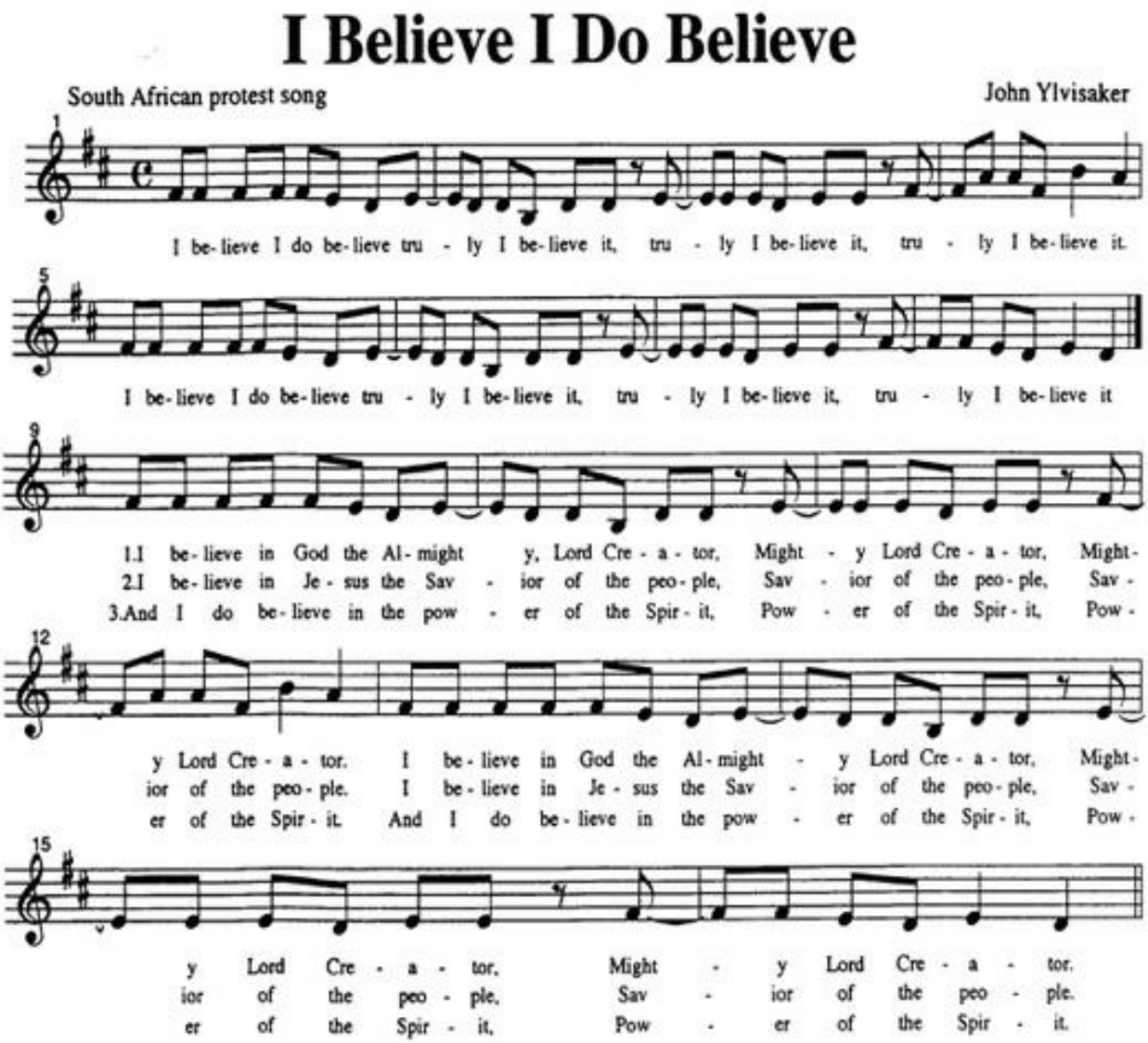
HOMILY



* CREED

Good stewardship requires conviction. Be bold in confessing your faith.

(Sing refrain, 3 verses, refrain).



*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The assisting minister prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "**hear our prayer.**" and those that end "O, God we give you thanks" with: "**Thanks be to God**" The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "**Amen**."*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O, God we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands… Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Guide my feet* African American Spiritual

Offerings and pledge forms can be brought up during the anthem.

*PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS AND RENEWAL

As 1 John 1:9 promises, "If we confess our sins, the Lord is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Lord God, we cry out to you, create in us a pure heart and renew our commitment to You, transforming us to live in alignment with Your will.

Silent reflection

Merciful Father, we approach You with contrite hearts, confessing our sins and earnestly seeking Your forgiveness. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness and renew our spirits, that we may emerge refreshed and restored. May this time of worship be a profound moment of renewal and reconciliation, drawing us nearer to You and strengthening our resolve to follow Your path.

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.*

*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

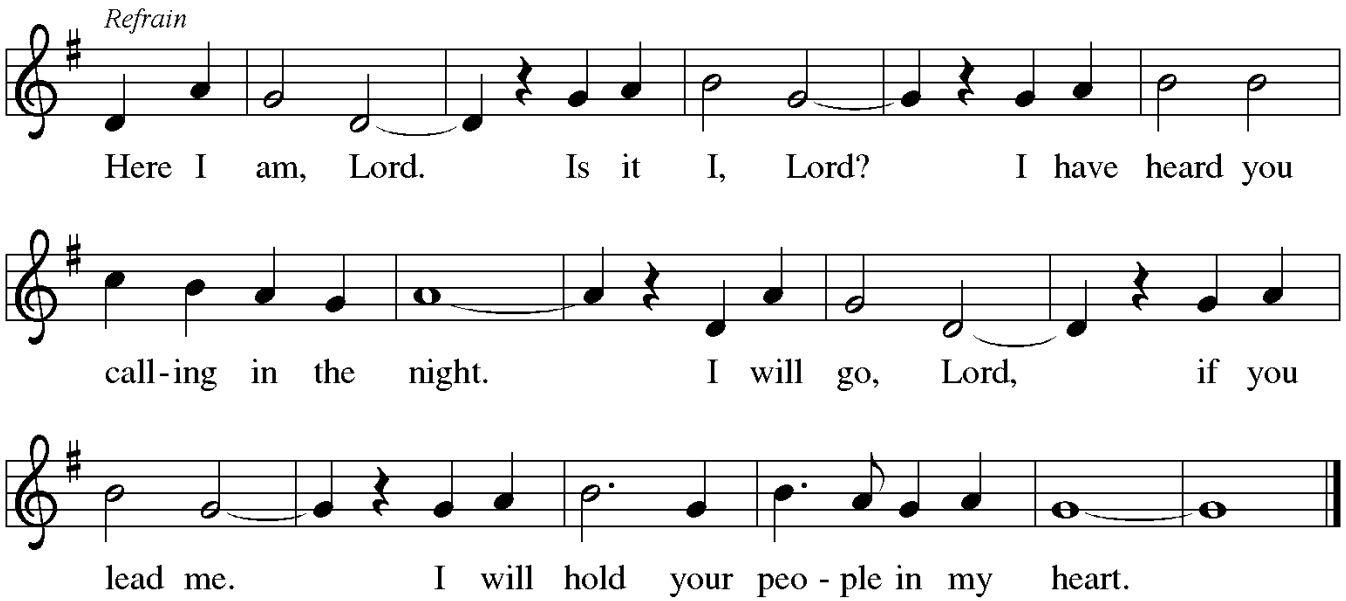
The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. **Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN — *Here Am I, Lord*

(Choir will sing verses. Congregation will respond with the refrain).



Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte
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BLESSING — *Open my eyes, Lord* — K. Lee Scott

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU
TO ALL WHO HELPED ORGANIZE AND CONTRIBUTED TO TODAY'S
BREAKFAST CHURCH!

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Ray & Jan Frick
in memory of Jan's mother, Ruth Mills.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please join us this evening for Bible Study at 5:00pm in the conference room. We are watching episodes from Season4 of the TV series, 'The Chosen'. Participation is both in-person and via zoom. For more information, please contact Jan Frick.
- Join us for Matins via Zoom on Tuesdays at 9:00am The link is available on our website. Please note that Vespers will resume during Advent.
- The ministry of Carol's Closet at St. James will once again be collecting coats for November, December, and January. We at St. Mark have been supporting the Carol's Closet ministry over many years, as the needs of our neighbors are ever present. If you have any spare coats that are in good condition, then please consider donating them. You can bring them to church and leave them in the Carol's Closet baskets located in the St. Mark coat closet. If you have any questions, then please contact Jan Frick.
- The next Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, November 19 at 12:30pm: Fenton River Grill, 135 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT. Optional shopping at The Hoot after lunch. Please RSVP to Ellen Z. by Tuesday, November 17.
- The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be celebrated at South Church on Tuesday, November 24 from 7:00-8:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Address: South Church, 949 Main St, So. Glastonbury.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, November 8	8:30am	Breakfast Church
	5:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, November 10	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
Wednesday, November 11	*Veterans Day*	
Thursday, November 12	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, November 15	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament Followed by Coffee Hour Sponsored by Deb's Team

www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org
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