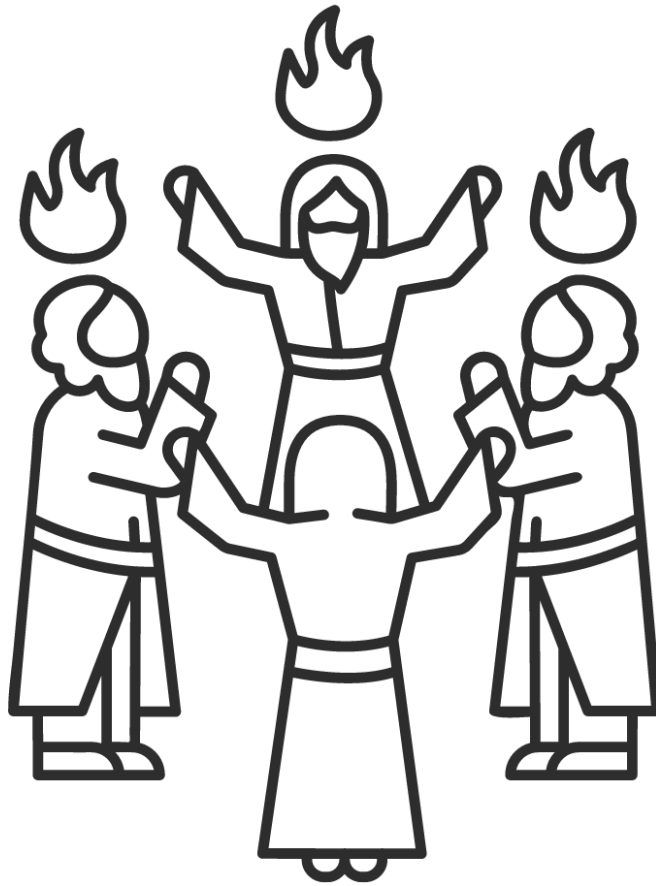


The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 15, 2024

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

Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

Name tags are available. We'd love to make one for you if you do not have one already.

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table, where there are weekly activity bulletins and crayons.

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:15 am. Our YouTube channel link is available on our website, stmarksandstjohns.org.

We do not pass an offering plate during the service. If you would like to make a financial gift, you can place it in the plate (by the sign-in binder) or contribute online.

PRELUDE

Musicians: Andy Lacey and Nick Lord

OPENING MUSIC

“We are Marching in the Light of God”

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -

march - ing in the light of God, We are march - ing in the
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' -
mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. -

light of God, we are march - ing in the light of, the
nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba
Mar - cha - re - mos

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are
nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -

Oo we are march - ing in the light of God
Oo si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' -
Oo mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. -

march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, the
ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -

We are march - ing
 Si - ya - ham - ba
 Mar - cha - re - mos

light of God. nyen' kwen - khos'. We are march - ing, Si - ya - ham - be, march - ing we are ham - ba, si - ya -

Oo
 Oo
 Oo

march - ing, ham - ba, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God. ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

THE 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.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from the book of Isaiah, the fiftieth chapter...

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 116:1-8

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

**The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.**

Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

**Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.**

The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

**Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.**

For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.**

SECOND LESSON

James 3:1-12

A reading from the book of James, the third chapter...

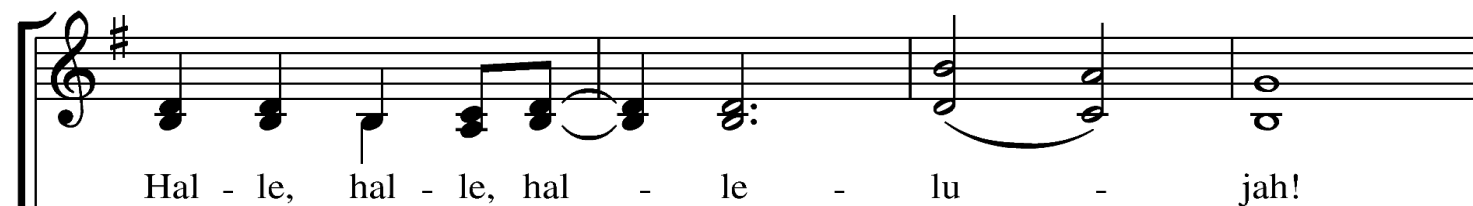
Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea

creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

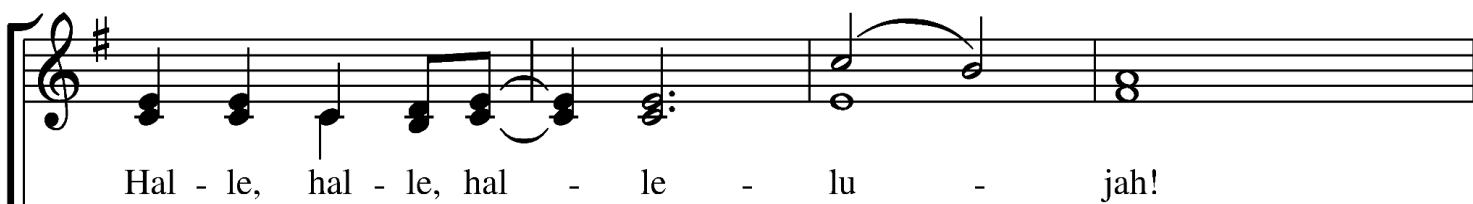
Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying

People: **Thanks be to God.**

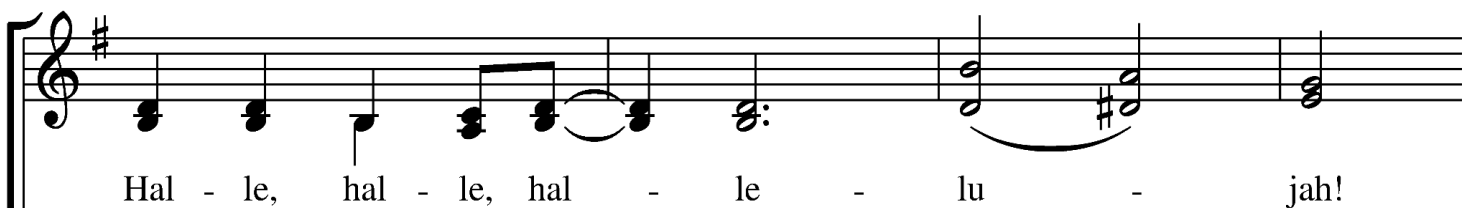
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (2x)



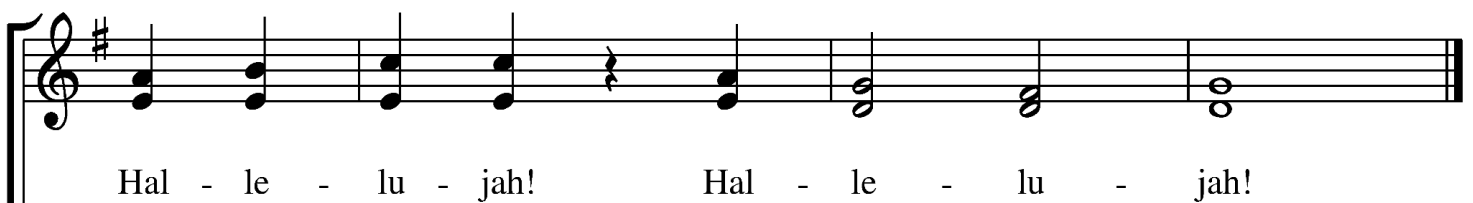
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Setting: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
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GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-38

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God above us,

Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.

We believe in Christ beside us,

companion and friend,

redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.

We believe in Spirit deep within us,

Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.

We believe in God's resurrection created world

where all things are fixed,

and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.

We believe in God above, beside, within,

God yesterday, today and forever,

the three in one, the one in three.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION *Please be seated*

You're invited to light a candle at our prayer table and write your prayer intentions on one of the Prayer Boards during the music.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We especially pray for...

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of God's peace to one another.

After the Passing of the Peace

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

DOXOLOGY

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Eucharistic Ministers bring the Communion elements to the altar during the music.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 80. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The second staff continues the melody. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes two parts: a first part and a second part. The first part has two lines of lyrics. The second part has two lines of lyrics. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals. The lyrics are: 1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low 2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; The world be - hind me, the cross be - Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back. fore me; The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

MUSIC

“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

HOLY EUCHARIST

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 God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we say together,

**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.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this in remembrance of me.

And so, remembering all that was done for us: his life and ministry, the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection longing for Christ's coming in glory, we present these gifts to you that your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time, gather us with all your whole creation into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Blessed are you now and forever. Amen.

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.

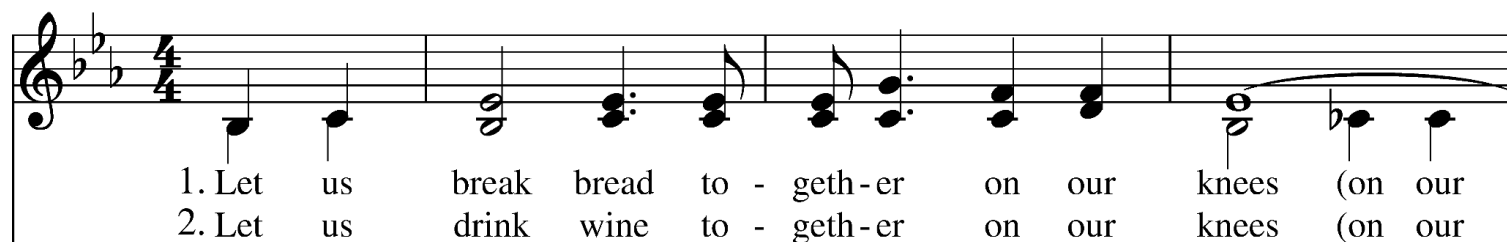
The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

All are welcome to receive communion.

COMMUNION MUSIC

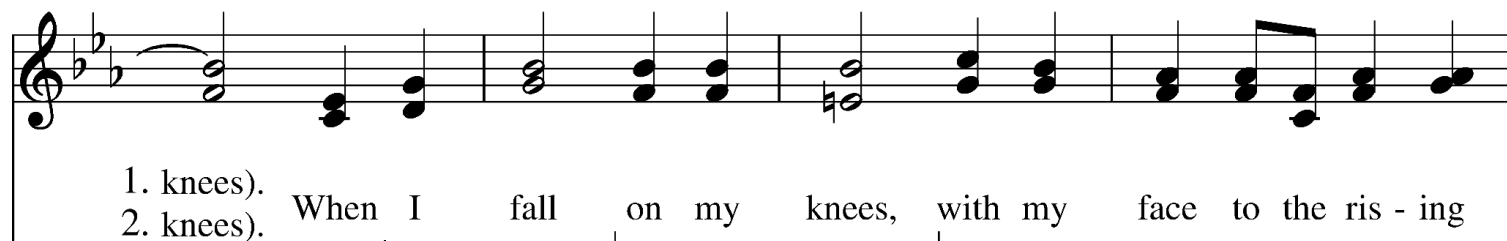
"Let Us Break Bread Together"



1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our



1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our



1. knees).
2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh— Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).

Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh—

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world as we live out your call to love and serve. Amen.

“THE BLESSING” (Aotearoa)

adapted for SMSJ liturgy - original music and words by
Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

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.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all peace bless you and keep you.
And the wisdom, love and grace of God strengthen you to be God’s
hands and heart in this world. And the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and remain with
you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go forth in the peace of Christ. Tend our neighborhood.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Worship Leaders for September-November (*Lectors*)

Date	First Lesson & Psalm	Second Lesson & Usher	Prayers of the People & Greeter
9/15	Dave E.	Sharon K.	Mike F.
9/22	Mary E.	Dave E.	Bob C.
9/29	Heather G.	Terri C.	Terri C.
10/6	Joe C.	Michele H.	Tom F.
10/13	Theresa H.	Steve F.	Sharon K.
10/20	Mike F.	Nancy W.	Deb S.
10/27	Deb S.	Joe C.	Michele H.
11/3	Tom F.	Theresa H.	Steve F.
11/10	Sharon K.	Mike F.	Mary E.

Worship Leaders for September-November *(Eucharistic Ministers)*

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups
9/15	Terri C.	Heather G.	Bob C.
9/22	Mike F.	Sharon K.	Theresa H.
9/29	Nancy W.	Michele H.	Joe C.
10/6	Sharon K.	Terri C.	Heather G.
10/13	Bob C.	Dave E.	Mary E.
10/20	Mary E.	Mike F.	Deb S.
10/27	Theresa H.	Tom F.	Michele H.
11/3	Joe C.	Deb S.	Terri C.
11/10	Heather G.	Bob C.	Dave E.

Weekly Garden Times

Tuesday	5 PM - Deacon Mike @ Parsells 6 PM - Deb @ Merchants
Wednesday	9 AM - Mary Ellen @ Church
Saturdays	9 AM - Maria @ 1199 Culver

Garden Captains are needed for EDEN 1199, Children's, and Denver. If you are interested in serving in this capacity with a team of volunteers, we would love to have you onboard!

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Are we missing your information? Let us know so we can add it and celebrate!

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Ginnie S. - September 2	Bob C. & Dennis R. - September 10
Sharon K. - September 9	
Sue L. - September 14	
Bob C. - September 16	

Announcements

Join us for a gathering all about our honey bees! **Today following Worship**, our Beekeeper Nick will be here to teach us about the busy bees on our Church Roof.

Episcopal 101 - Reboot - Bishop Kara will be visiting SMSJ in December. During her visit we will celebrate Confirmations and Receptions into the Episcopal Church. Moving forward our Episcopal 101 classes will be offered after church (*instead of Thursday evenings*) October 6th and November 3rd. Please see Pastor Cindy for details.



Save the Date for **Empty Bowls 2024!** This yearly fundraiser will take place on **Friday, October 25**. Tickets are on sale now at bit.ly/SMSJEmptyBowls2024 or by scanning the QR code. Want to make a soup? Let Terri C. know. Able to bake? Let Theresa H. know. Have a raffle prize to donate? Let Ginnie S. know.

Our next **Community Garden Work Day** is Saturday, September 21 at 10 am in the EDEN Children's Garden!

Our **Vestry Meeting** schedule for the Fall - September 22nd (Vestry Retreat), October 20th, November 17th, and December 15th.

An update on **Maria's process for Ordination to the Priesthood** - Maria will be serving a few Sundays a month at Church of the Epiphany in Gates, as required for "field education" as a Postulant for Holy Orders. She will be shadowing the Rector, preaching, and learning from a different setting. When she's not there, she will be here for Worship!

Diocesan News

2024 Convention 93 will be held on Saturday, **October 26th** at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Our delegates (Clergy & Lay) are required to pre-register by September 9th. The pre-Convention Meeting will be held on Zoom, **Tuesday, October 1st 5:30 pm-6:30 pm**. The agenda will include reviewing the Diocesan Proposed 2025 Budget (inc. Apportionment), meeting the Nominees for Elective Office, and learning about Convention logistics.

A **Celebration of New Ministry** will be held on Saturday, 9/28 at 10:30 am for The Rev'd Jim Trimble at St. John's (Honeoye Falls).

SMSJ Weekly Calendar

September 16-22

Monday, 9/16	
Tuesday, 9/17	5 p.m. - Gardening at EDEN Parsells 6 p.m. - Gardening at EDEN Merchants
Wednesday, 9/18	9 a.m. - Gardening at EDEN Church 10:30 a.m. - Food Shelf (<i>Mike, Joe, & Nancy</i>)
Thursday, 9/19	9 a.m. - Staff Retreat
Friday, 9/20	"Project Morning" 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, 9/21	10 a.m.-Noon - Garden Work Day EDEN Children's
Sunday, 9/22	9:15 a.m. - Sunday Worship with Eucharist 10:30 a.m. - Vestry Meeting/Retreat



St. Mark's & St. John's Staff

Rector: *The Rev'd Cynthia Rasmussen, Ph.D.*

crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

Operations and Missions Director: *Maria Hartz, M.Div.*

mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

Musician: *Andy Lacey*

Audio and Video Producer: *Robert Thornton*

Deacon Emeritus: *The Rev'd Mike Finn*

wetlandnomad88@gmail.com

St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry

Co-Wardens: Walt Snyder & Sharon Kowalski

Vestry Members: Bob Caruso (Clerk), Heather Gilfoy, Ella Gruel, Theresa Harte, Nancy Ramsay, Ginnie Schindler, and Nancy Willer

Diocesan Delegates: Nancy Ramsay, Ella Gruel, and Deb Snyder

Alternate Diocesan Delegate: Terri Censak

Treasurer: Michele Holmes

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative

Terri Censak