



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

July 11, 2021 | 9:30

**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion**

When Amos reported his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he became a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also spoke truth to power, and Herod had him killed. Paul reminds us that we are to set our hope on Christ alone and to live our lives focused on his saving grace. Christ sends us from this place into the world to speak the word of truth, living as signs of God's forgiving grace.

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.

The Offering will be brought forward by the usher during the Offertory Anthem.

Prelude

"How Firm a Foundation"

Early American Melody
Organ Setting by Timothy Shaw

The congregation stands as the cross is carried into the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation" (ELW 796)

FOUNDATION

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
4. "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Roppon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787. Alt.; Music: Early American

Please be seated.

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Confession.

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is
marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, + the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

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

Let us pray. O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Dedication of Picnic Tables

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to dedicate three new outdoor picnic tables to the glory of God. The table is a symbol of the sacrament of Holy Communion where we receive grace, forgiveness and strength for our human journeys. Renewed at the Eucharistic table, we also set tables as places of fellowship and encouragement in Christian community. May these new tables be a sacred place for youth

and families to gather, as well as for St. Mark's Soup Kitchen as it seeks to fulfill Christ's command to feed the hungry and thirsty amidst the uncertainty of life.

Introduction of Davis Ferner and a brief statement regarding these new tables and their significance for the congregation.

Please stand.

Prayer of Dedication

All your works praise you, O Lord.

And your faithful servants bless you.

Acts 2:42, 46-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have made the whole earth after your glory; all your creatures praise you. Your gifts are many, and in wisdom you have made all things to give you glory. Be with us now as we dedicate three new outdoor picnic tables to your praise and honor. Give us joy in our worship and fellowship with one another; grant that these tables may always be a place where your will is done and your name is glorified; may Christ Jesus join all who gather at these tables, strengthening them for lives of love and service, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The service continues with the readings.

First Reading

Amos 7:7-15

Cindy Little, lector

⁷This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword." ¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'" ¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." ¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore

trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:8-13

Amy Woodall, Micah Hein, cantors

I will lis - ten to what the LORD God is

say - ing, I will lis - ten to the LORD.

Psalm 85:8 (Ray McKeever) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Cindy Little, lector

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

“Fanfare in D Major” from *Opus 85*

Craig Sellar Lang

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 6:14-29

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” ¹⁵But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” ¹⁷For

Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Set Your Hope on Christ"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

(A devotional reading or homily may also be read, if this service is being used as a devotional.)

Anthem

"Be Still and Know"

Stephen Curtis Chapman

Micah Hein, baritone soloist; Arranged by Bryce Inman

Holy Baptism

Presentation

Candidates for baptism, sponsors and parents gather at the font, and the pastor addresses the assembly.

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The sponsors present the candidate.

I present Helen Drew Holzinger for baptism.

The pastor addresses the parents.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn and trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

The pastor addresses sponsors.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

I do.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support Helen Drew Holzinger and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

The pastor addresses the candidates, as well as parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The pastor addresses the parents, sponsors and assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The pastor leads the thanksgiving as water is poured into the font.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism

Helen Drew, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Helen Drew with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Helen Drew, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative redeeming word to all the world.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Michael Thompson, prayer assistant)

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.

Let us come before the triune God in prayer. *A brief silence.*

God of Mission, as you sent Amos to reveal your will of compassion and justice, so continue to send your church into the world to embody your compassion and justice for the world and its peoples. Grant your church wisdom and courage to understand and act, in the mystery of your will, with the forgiving love of Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of Peace and Prosperity, You have given so much to us. Your creation was meant to sustain us, fulfill us, and keep us connected to You. Maintain Your saving presence in our land, bringing together love and faithfulness, righteousness and peace, so that we may remain ready for the day when heaven and earth become one. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the Oppressed, open the ears and the minds of all leaders to hear and know your gospel of love. Grant all leaders the vision to look to you in all things, and voices that speak of the riches of your grace so that all people of every ethnicity, gender, and nation might obtain the inheritance you have prepared for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of Mercy, as the global death toll from the COVID-19 pandemic surpasses 4 million, grant Your knowledge and wisdom to world leaders, scientists, healthcare professionals, and others entrusted with saving lives from this disease. Impart in them a spirit of cooperation and collaboration that they may work together to bring about an end to this period of profound suffering and loss. We also ask that your tender care and sustaining power be upon: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Jeffery Eckerd, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert

Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Jo Lammonds, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Mary Lou Kiser, Jim Hobbs, Paul Davis, Jimmy Schwartz, Doris Dixon, Ken Winters, Michael Frye, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Debbie Walden, Dene Shockley, and the residents of Matthews Glen. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of Blessing, we pray for the ministries of St. Mark's, for all who come seeking redemption and forgiveness, and for all who labor in the gospel here. We especially remember children and families, that in the ministries of St. Mark's, your Holy Spirit bless and sustain all children, youth and adults that we might set our hope on Christ in every stage of our human journey. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of Love, even before You created this world You ensured that we would be Yours through our union with Christ. Keep us close to You as we prepare for the time when You will bring all of creation together with Christ as the head. Grant us the wisdom to understand that all things are done according to Your plan. And continue to remind us that we are Yours, and because of Your grace and the death and resurrection of Your Son, we are saved. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

(please share words of peace while practicing "social distancing" as appropriate)

OFFERING

(Offerings may be placed in the plate at the sanctuary entrance)

(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)

Offertory Anthem

"Faith of Our Fathers" from *Hymns in Trio Style*

Tune by Henri F. Hemy; Organ Setting by David S. Harris

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

Please stand.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving *(spoken)*

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.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come to the holy meal!

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is now offered in two ways: a "Communion Kit," or wafer and wine in a small cup. Communion will be continuous beginning with the balcony, then the pulpit side, followed by the lectern side of the sanctuary. Please follow the ushers' directions, coming forward via the center aisle to the freestanding altar, returning via the side aisle. If receiving a "kit" please return to your pew via the side aisle to partake of Communion. Afterwards please seal the used Communion utensils in the zip-lock kit bag, and dispose of them after worship in the bowls available in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

Communion Music

"Here Is Bread"

Music by Graham Kendrick
Amy Woodall, alto; Micah Hein, baritone

"Reverie" from *Partita on 'Foundation'*

Early American Tune
Organ Setting by Alice Jordan

Please stand.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"Faith of Our Fathers" (ELW 812)

ST. CATHERINE

1. Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy when-e'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.
3. Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife;
proclaim thee too, as love knows how, by saving word and faithful life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.; Music Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905, refrain

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

"Fantasy—Toccatà" from *Partita on 'Foundation'*

Setting by Alice Jordan

Please join us for fellowship on the patio outside.



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Davis Ferner, crucifer; Brady Ferner acolyte; Michael Thompson, prayer assistant; Cindy Little, lector; Jacob Wenzel, Jonathan & Charles Lakeman, live streaming camera; Kevin Feezor, soundboard; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, A. J. Pridgen; greeters: Charles & Susan Lakeman, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Gretchen Dodge, Layton Campbell; tabulators: Richard Cansler, Karen Feezor; musicians: Amy Woodall, alto soloist and cantor; Micah Hein, baritone soloist and cantor; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Huang; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; ushers: Team B; greeters: Jay Jacob, bill & Jane Thompson; lector: Kelly Price; communion assistants: Sally McCauley, Susan Lakeman; tabulators: Susan League, Meg Fielding

Music Notes

"How Firm a Foundation" ELW 796 The authorship of this hymn text has always been a mystery to hymnologists. We know it was first published in 1787 in a hymnal compiled by Dr. John Rippon (1751-1836), pastor for sixty-three years at Carter's Lane Baptist Church, London, England. The hymn appeared anonymously in his collection with the author indicated merely as "K", and in later reprints "Keen". Since the music director in Dr. Rippon's church was named Richard Keene, it is generally accepted that he was the author of the text. There are many scriptural references: Isaiah 43:1-5, Isaiah 41:10, 2 Corinthians 12:9, and II Timothy 2:19. It is basically about the promises of God, and our hymnal uses quotation marks for all the stanzas in which various promises are quoted. The original hymn has seven stanzas, Evangelical Lutheran Worship includes four. Here is an additional stanza (7): "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for Repose, I will not, I will not desert to his Foes; That soul, tho' all Hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never--no never--no never forsake." The tune **FOUNDATION** is one of the many anonymous American tunes that first appeared in an 1832 collection by Joseph Funk, a German Mennonite based in the Shenandoah Valley area of Virginia.

"Faith of Our Fathers" ELW 812 Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863) first published this hymn in his collection *Jesus and Mary; or Catholic Hymns for Singing and Reading* (London, 1849). This is an example of a hymn whose meaning is completely different from the original intent of the author. Austin Lovelace, American composer, author and hymnologist, sums it up nicely: "Faber sought to convert England to Catholicism with faith of our fathers, but Unitarians altered it for Protestant use, and it is found in practically all American hymnals and sung with enthusiasm as singers vow to be true to the faith till death. God moves in mysterious ways!" The tune **ST. CATHERINE** is named for Saint Catherine of Alexandria (287-305), a fourth-century Christian martyr.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

July 11, Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino (c.480-c.547)

Benedict is known as the father of Western monasticism. He was educated in Rome but was appalled by the decline of life around him. He went to live as a hermit, and a community of monks came to gather around him. In the prologue of his rule for monasteries, he wrote that his intent in drawing up regulations was "to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome." It is that moderate spirit that characterizes his rule and the monastic communities that are formed by it. Benedict still encourages a generous spirit of hospitality in that visitors to Benedictine communities are to be welcomed as Christ himself.

July 12, Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala (1866-1931)

Söderblom was a Swedish theologian, ecumenist, and social activist, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930. Söderblom was Archbishop of Uppsala, the head of the Lutheran Church in Sweden. He saw the value of the liturgical movement, and valued the work of liberal Protestant scholars, believing that social action was a first step on the path toward a united Christianity. He organized the Universal Christian Council on Life and Work, one of the organizations that, in 1948, came together to found the World Council of Churches.

July 17, Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies (c.1484-1566)

Bartolomé de Las Casas was a Spanish priest and a missionary in the Western Hemisphere. He first came to the West while serving in the military, and after becoming a priest served as military chaplain in the conquest of Cuba. He later wrote, "I saw there cruelty on a scale no living being has ever seen or expects to see." For his service he was granted a large estate that included a number of indigenous slaves. In 1514, while preparing to preach on Pentecost, he came to believe that the Spanish colonial system constituted a great injustice toward indigenous peoples. As a result, he granted freedom to his servants. He wrote appealing to the Pope to stop the enslavement of indigenous people, and worked throughout the Caribbean and Central America to halt the brutal treatment of women by military forces, and to promote laws that humanized the process of colonization.

Parish News

From the pastor -

By unanimous vote, St. Mark's Congregation Council has lifted the restrictions of social distancing and masks consistent with the CDC and the Executive Order of Governor Roy Cooper, "that fully vaccinated individuals can safely do most activities without a mask or the need to social distance from others"; as well as the NCDHHS guidance, "People who are not vaccinated should wear a mask and maintain distance in all indoor public settings and in outdoor settings when they can't maintain six feet of distance." Therefore, reservations are no longer needed. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

St. Mark's Council continues to take seriously the safety and the health concerns of all members and friends. Therefore, if individuals need or desire to wear a mask during worship, the Council wholeheartedly supports the continued use of masks for those who desire to wear them. The Council also voted that the first two rows of pews remain roped off to allow adequate space between musicians, lectors, worship leaders and the congregation as we continue our transition out of the pandemic. We have also restarted after worship fellowship with refreshments, weather permitting, on the church patio.

St. Mark's Council has also voted to add congregational singing of processional and recessional hymns, and also to offer Holy Communion in two ways in Sunday worship, either by "Communion Kit," or wafer and wine in a small cup. Though "Drive-Thru" Holy Communion has ended, if Holy Communion is desired by anyone unable to attend Sunday worship, please contact me to arrange a time to come to the church to receive the sacrament.

As we continue in a time of transition, we also look to the future knowing that Jesus Christ is leading us toward a "new normal" of new ministries and opportunities. May we remain steadfast to following Jesus Christ who never leaves us, always walks with us, and gives us strength to be light and hope for the world.

In the grace and peace of Christ,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmlc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Baptism today We celebrate together with the Holzinger family as Helen Drew Holzinger is made a member of Christ's body, the church, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. May God continue to bless Helen and her family as they grow together in Christ!

Altar Flowers today are given in celebration of our 21st wedding anniversary on July 15, by Charles and Susan Lakeman.

"Hybrid Worship" is both in-person and online worship at the same time. The Holy Spirit gathers us both in-person and online as we continue to live together as the body of Christ during this pandemic.

Online worship continues to be streamed every Sunday at 9:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

Summer Sanctuary Wednesdays. During the summer St. Mark's sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation (6/9 - 7/28, 10:30 am-1:30 pm). Though not a worship service, it is an opportunity for individual prayer in the sacred space of our church home. In the comings and goings of the summer, let St. Mark's sanctuary also be a place of quiet midweek homecoming, prayerful summer renewal, and joyful sacred music. Resources for this time include a brief organ recital at 12 noon and a devotional bulletin prepared from the daily lectionary.

Book Swap! Book lovers, start saving your used books for our fall Book Swap. We'll announce the date of the book exchange by the end of summer and when you can start bringing in your books. Let's make this one the best ever!

Stewardship

Offerings and pledges may continue to be sent to St. Mark's church office by mail or through online giving. For more information go to (<http://saintmarkscharlotte.org/stewardship/do-you-wish-to-make-a-donation/>). We have been blessed to be a blessing to others!

St. Mark's 2021 Stewardship campaign We continue to welcome your pledge of support for St. Mark's ministries. You may choose to return it with your offering or mail it to the church office, either in paper or online. You can also send your pledge over OnRealm. Just log into your account. Click on Giving on the left. Click on the grey "Pledge Box" and fill out the information. Remember to choose **"GF Member Contributions - 01/01/2021 until 12/31/2021"** Thank you for your generosity. It makes a difference!

Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office. Remember a loved one or commemorate an event by donating altar flowers. If you would like to volunteer as flower coordinator, please let us know.

Social Ministry

We continue to remember the hungry and homeless through our social ministries.

Quarters Drive Thank you to all who have continued to support the quarters drive. Quarters go to

Refugee Support Services for use in laundry facilities in many apartment buildings used by recently arrived refugees. Please continue to save your quarters as the need will be ongoing. You may drop them off at church Monday-Thursday from 10 am – 2 pm, or place them in the offering plate on Sunday and they will be locked in the counting room.

Food Drive for Loaves and Fishes Social Ministry is requesting your support through July by bringing food items to help hungry children and families in Mecklenburg County! Please bring Canned entrees (spaghetti, stew, etc.), Boxed mac & cheese (any size, any brand), Canned meats (chicken, tuna, spam), Peanut butter (any size, any brand), Boxed cereal (not too sugary), Canned fruit (any kind, any size, preferably in natural juices).

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen continues every Thursday making bag lunches for distribution to our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Youth and Family Ministry

Come to the Waters Children's VBS: Save the Date! Saturday, July 31. 9 am – 2 pm at St. Mark's. Through storytelling, crafts, music, and games, children will explore the place of water in Creation, the Noah's Ark story, and Baptism. VBS is aimed at children ages 4-10. If you have a child 3 or younger who would like to participate, that's fine! We would just ask that a parent of these youngest children stay and participate with the group. If any parent would like to help with all or part of the program (storytelling, games, crafts, lunch), please respond and let me know. Your help is always accepted and appreciated! Youth are also invited to help lead! **Cost** The cost for each child to attend is \$5. This will help offset the cost of VBS materials. You can pay by cash or check (payable to St. Mark's). Please hand payments directly to Alex or place them in his church mailbox.

Adult VBS: August 1-2 Resiliency and Reliance on God Sunday, August 1--After worship until Noon. Light refreshments will be provided. Monday, August 2--7:00-8:15 pm. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Alex English at dymalexenglish@gmail.com. The Christian Education Committee looks forward to hosting an Adult Vacation Bible School centered around the theme of resilience and reliance on God in times of trouble! Presenters will include Carol Goodall and Pastor Tim.

Announcements

Please remember to set the alarm when leaving the church. There is less activity at the church, so each person should be aware that the alarm may need to be set as they leave.

Facemasks St. Mark's members have made colorful, washable, re-usable masks which are in the Narthex. Please feel free to use these as masks continue to be part of our lives.



St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Jeffery Eckerd, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Jo Lammonds, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Mary Lou Kiser, Jim Hobbs, Paul Davis, Jimmy Schwartz, Julian and Judy Norris, Doris Dixon, Ken Winter, Michael Frye, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Dene Shockley, the residents of Matthews Glen.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests
(pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

Readings for 7/18/2021, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Birthdays

7/11 Linda Carter

7/14 Jackie Ellington

7/17 Kim Adden



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. Would you contact us today? Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com), *or Lisa Barnette* (stephenministrysmc@gmail.com)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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