



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

July 4, 2021 | 9:30

**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Communion**

When Paul wrote, "for when I am weak, then I am strong," he forever pointed others to Christ whose power is made perfect in weakness. Jesus sent his disciples out seemingly with nothing - nothing but his authority. They took nothing that could be mistaken as signs of earthly power: no bread, no bag, no money and no spare clothing. Yet possessing only the authority of Jesus, they cast out demons, and anointed and cured the sick. With his power perfected in weakness, Jesus sends us out again and again for the healing of the world.

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

"A Patriotic Prelude for Trumpet and Organ"

Tunes: MATERNA, NATIONAL HYMN, BATTLE HYMN
Setting for Trumpet and Organ by Charles Callahan

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

Processional Hymn

"We Praise You, O God" (ELW 870)

KREMSER

1. We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er-take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963.; Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandisch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

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. God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading**Ezekiel 2:1-5**

Meg Fielding, lector

¹He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

*The Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.****Psalm 123**

Micah Hein, cantor

Our eyes look to you, O God, un -

til you show us your mer - cy.

Psalm 123:2 (Aaron David Miller) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress**Second Reading****2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

Meg Fielding, lector

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— ⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

*The Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation***"Gospel Fanfare" from Three Liturgical Fanfares"*

Charles Callahan

*Please stand.***The Holy Gospel****Mark 6:1-13***The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

"Strength in Weakness"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

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

Anthem

"Here I Am, Lord"

Tune by Daniel L. Schutte

Setting for Trumpet and Organ by David Howard Pettit

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

(Lisa Barnette, prayer assistant)

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.

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

Sending Lord, the mission of the Church has been the same since Jesus sent out his disciples to preach to people that were open to listening to the Gospel. They sought those that were

open to a life where they would repent of their previous ways and choose to rely on God's promises for all things as they were fulfilled in Jesus. As we work our way through the fears and hard times created by the pandemic, there is no better time to continue the mission and message of the Church. We pray to the Lord in whom we place our trust and plant our faith in the promises of God for now and forever. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of Freedom, we pray for all nations: bestow your peace throughout the world; raise up prophets to speak truth to power; uphold those who work for human rights; and protect the poor and the refugee. On this Fourth of July, we ask that you bless the United States: free us from prejudice, racism, and division, unite us in service for all humanity, and grant to our elected leaders a passion for justice and a will to serve all the people. Protect from danger all who serve this nation and all who celebrate this day. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of Enduring Love, giving thanks is our utmost response to reflect our love back to God. We show our thanks by honoring his marvelous creation of the universe and the beautiful earth that we inhabit. When we do everything in our power to mindfully acknowledge that it is our duty to care for and notice that "every cubic inch of space is a miracle" (Walt Whitman) then we must be better stewards of God's creation. We, as individuals and communities, need to support efforts that try to save lands that have been critically affected by climate change. Let us be thankful that 'God shed His grace on Thee' and do what we can for his creation with the love and help of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of Holiness, you continue to send us out into the world to proclaim your love. Bless, we pray, the ministries of St. Mark's. Bless us in worship and song; bless the hands that prepare and serve food to our neighbors; bless the generous hearts donating groceries so that no one would be hungry; bless us young and old as we strive to walk with you throughout our lifetimes. As we leave this place, equip us with freedom in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord of Hope, hope is in our hearts because we believe in your Living Word. We hold on to the hope that miracles will be revealed as medical research and discovery continues to gain exacting knowledge toward curing Covid-19 that will help all of humankind. With the many trials that lay ahead, may the Lord of Hope calm our fears and lead us to pray for the conscience of those who are hesitant toward the reality that everyone has a responsibility for the health and greater good of all people. We ask that hope and healing would be sustained in: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Jeffery Eckerd, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Jo Lammonds, Carl Spermeyer, 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 Eternal Love, we thank you for all your saints, those who have served their nations, and those who have ministered beyond national borders. We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who remind and lead us toward true freedom in you. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and those who seek liberty for all. At the end of our journeys and labors complete us, too, and bring us all into the glory of your kingdom. 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

"Air de Trompette"

George Philipp Telemann

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

"Andante" from Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major

Franz Joseph Haydn; Gabe Slesinger, trumpet

"Variations for Organ on 'America'"

Charles Wesley

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

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" (ELW 888)

MATERNA

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain;
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

was intended to "replace" the Thanksgiving hymn "**We Gather Together**" which he thought too "Old Testament, militaristic and unchristian". Cory's hymn was first sung on Thanksgiving Day in 1902, to the sixteenth century Dutch tune **KREMSER**.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

July 6, Jan Hus, martyr (c.1369-1415)

Jan Hus was a Bohemian priest who spoke against abuses in the church of his day in many of the same ways that Luther would a century later. He was eventually excommunicated. He preached against the withholding of the cup from the laity at Eucharist, and against the selling of indulgences. He was found guilty of heresy by the Council of Constance (1414-1417) and burned at the stake. The followers of Hus became known as the Czech Brethren, and eventually continued as the Moravian Church.

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

Today on Independence Day we give thanks to God for the freedom and abundance that we experience as a nation and pray that we will continue to challenge ourselves to embrace and demonstrate in our lives and laws values of freedom, justice, equality, and care for all people that we also experience in Jesus Christ.

In observation of Independence Day, the church office will be closed Monday, July 5th.

"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.

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

Youth Zoom Meeting The next Youth Zoom meeting will be on **Friday, July 9** at 3:30 pm. We hope to see lots of youth this Friday!

Youth Service Day Youth will hold an all-day service event at St. Mark's on either July 22 or August 5. Please contact Alex and let him know which date works best for the youth in your family! Parents are also invited to participate.

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 7/11/2021, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying.

(Ps. 85:8)

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

Birthdays

7/5 Rochelle Dagenhart

7/5 Susan League

7/6 Hubert McLendon Jr.

7/8 Joel Ritchie

7/8 Larry Elder

7/10 Erin Wall



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 (stephenministriesmlc@gmail.com)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
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Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry,
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