



**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**November 24, 2021 | 7 pm**

**Thanksgiving Eve**

**Service of Holy Communion**

For many of us the celebration of Thanksgiving centers around meals shared with family and friends as we give thanks to God for the abundance of the created world, the harvest season and for all of God's gracious gifts. We also offer thanksgiving for our common life together as a society and for the peace of the whole world. For Christians, the Eucharist, which literally means "thanksgiving," centers our life of faith around the Lord's table as Christ comes to us in the bread and the cup with grace and forgiveness. Christ sets a table for us so that with thanksgiving, we might invite others to know the gracious love of God.

*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.  
**Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.***

**Prelude** "Now Thank We All Our God" from *Three Thanksgiving Chorale Preludes*  
Tune by Johann Cruger; Setting for Organ by Brian Joyce

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

**Processional Hymn** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (ELW 693) ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR

1. Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;  
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home;  
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;  
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

*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. Please stand.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables  
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves  
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,**

**to welcome those you send,**

**and to treasure mercy and justice.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways,**

**and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new,  
forgives your sins for + Jesus' sake  
and remembers them no more.

Lift up your heads and your hearts.

Yours is the kingdom of God.

**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. Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

#### **Joel 2:21-27**

<sup>21</sup>Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! <sup>22</sup>Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. <sup>23</sup>O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. <sup>24</sup>The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. <sup>25</sup>I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. <sup>26</sup>You shall



the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Thanksgiving Reflection**

*"Be Glad and Rejoice"*

**Pastor Timothy McKenzie**

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

**Anthem**

*"We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing"*

Tune by Adriaan Valerius; Setting for Organ by Robert Lau

**The 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**

(Prayers, Pastor McKenzie)

*The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.*

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all the ministries of your church. We give thanks for the work you accomplish through your church. With thanksgiving for all we have been given, we pray that you would help us to always open the doors of our church, our hearts, our lives, and our hands toward the world, so that all people might experience the abundance of your love and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bountiful God, you feed all people through the richness of the land, water, sunlight, and the harvest of our labors. We give thanks for all who plant, tend, care for, and harvest - farmers and migrant laborers, so that your creation will continue to provide sustenance for every living thing. Give us thankful hearts able share with others what you have given to us, knowing that our entire lives are an offering of thanksgiving to you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you order our lives with your providential care. We give you thanks for this nation, its laws and infrastructure, and its varied cultures and regional diversity. Grant wisdom to all leaders, national and local, that they may offer their lives in service to you and the people of this nation. Grant this nation insight to see that all people have not been able to share in your abundance. End the sin of racism, hatred, and division, and align our national purposes with your own, so that all the undertakings of government, industry, education, and social welfare institutions might bring you glory and magnify your peace and justice for all. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you are the source of all compassion and love. We give you thanks for medical caregivers and researchers, through whose hands we experience your healing and wholeness. Bless the ongoing search for effective vaccines and treatments to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask your healing upon all suffering in any way, and ask your protection and compassion upon the medical caregivers of St. Mark's. Extend your healing hands 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, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Debbie Walden, Dene Shockley, Steven Hopp, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Ron Wenzel Sr., Lois Witham, Amanda Platt, Judy South, Asher Dugan, Hunter Everhart, Bill Thompson, Sarah Markham, Steve Rach, and the residents of Matthews Glen. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Abundant God, at your table you fill us with the grace of your Son, healing and forgiving us. We pray for all who are lonely or grieving a first holiday without a loved one and for families who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. As families and friends gather cautiously for Thanksgiving, in-person or in reduced numbers, we ask that you would give us grateful hearts for all your gifts, especially the presence of your Son Jesus Christ in our lives. May Christ be present at all of our tables, in all of our meals, and in all of our homecomings. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the loving example we have received from all the saints who have faithfully gone before us and who feast in your eternal kingdom. By their example, encourage us to always be thankful and generous so that the mission of your church might continue to point toward your eternal kingdom of love. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior, until the day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

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

### **OFFERING**

*The offering is brought forward for the mission of the church and the care of those in need.*

## Offertory Anthem

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow”

Organ Setting by Johann Pachelbel

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

A feast of love is offered here  
for you and for all the saints.

### Distribution of Holy Communion

*During these weeks of Midweek Services Holy Communion will be distributed continuously from the freestanding altar by "Communion Kits." After receiving a "kit" please return via the side aisles to your pew to partake of communion. Please seal used communion utensils in the zip-*

*lock kit bag. The Real Presence of Jesus Christ continues to abide in the bread and the cup, blessing, renewing and forgiving us to lives of love and service.*

**Communion Music**      “Improvisation on ‘On What Has Now Been Sown’”

Tune by John Darwall; Organ Setting by Charles Callahan

*Please stand.*

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

#### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

#### **SENDING BLESSING**

God, the beginning and the end,  
who has written your name in the book of life,  
+ bless and keep you in grace and peace  
from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn**      “Now Thank We All Our God” (ELW 840)      NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers’ arms, has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878; Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go with thanksgiving to love God and serve neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Postlude**

“Now Thank We All Our God” from Cantata 79

Johann Sebastian Bach; Setting for Organ by Virgil Fox

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This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress.  
Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Ron Wenzel, live streaming camera; Charles Lakeman,  
soundboard; musician: Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

## **Worship and Congregational Life**

**Advent Midweek Holy Communion** will take place at 12:15 pm and 7 pm every Wednesday (12/1, 12/8, 12/15) during Advent at St. Mark's, and at 7 pm, live on Facebook at SaintMarksCharlotte

### **Looking forward to Advent**

11/28 Advent 1: Advent Bags and Devotional Booklet

12/5 Advent 2: "The Glorious Sound of Christmas" Concert at 5 pm

12/12 Advent 3: Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:30 am

12/19 Advent 4: Queen City Ringers "Seasons of the Heart" Concert, 5 pm

During Advent, prepare your heart with prayer and song.

**Christmas Eve Worship** 12/24 at 8 pm at St. Mark's and live on Facebook at SaintMarksCharlotte.

**2022 Stewardship Campaign *Share the Joy!*** Sharing our gifts is important to St. Mark's ongoing mission. The word "stewardship" comes from the New Testament word "*oikonomia*" which means the management of God's household. This word is also the source of the word "economics," which implies that stewardship means being good financial managers of God's household - St. Mark's Lutheran Church. By offering a pledge we are each helping manage the resources God has blessed us with. A pledge is a prayerful commitment to giving in response to God's grace. A pledge may be offered at any time, but pledges help a congregation establish a responsible budget for the coming year.



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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](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com)), or Lisa Barnette ([stephenministriesmlc@gmail.com](mailto:stephenministriesmlc@gmail.com))

## *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**

[pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

**Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry, Organist**

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