



ST. MARK'S

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God who comes to each of us daily, searching us out and forgiving our sins.

GATHERING

*Offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.
The Offering will be brought forward by the ushers during the Offertory Anthem.
Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.*

Prelude

“Overture” from *Suite in D Major for Trumpet and Organ*

George Frideric Handel

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ELW 834

ST. DENIO

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.; Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

Please be seated.

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,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.
We have harmed your good creation.
We have failed to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the path that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Children and young people with backpacks and bags are invited forward.

Prayer of Blessing for Students, Backpacks and School Supplies

Dear Friends in Christ, God gives all of us work to do in service to God and our neighbor in the world. This is called our Christian vocation. Each of us has a vocation in school and work, at home and in the world. Each day we carry backpacks and bags of all kinds to school and work, and into our communities and the world, signs of our Christian vocation of learning about the world you have made and of serving others in Christian love. **Amen.**

Prayer of Blessing of Backpack and Bags

God of grace, bless these young people in their studies and the backpacks and bags they carry. As Jesus sent his disciples into the world carrying your gospel of love, so send, bless and protect these young people in their learning and service to you, through all they will learn and all they do. Bless and help each of them to serve you and their neighbor in humble service so that they might grow into the vocation, gifts and work you have given to each of them. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Prayer of Blessing of School Supplies for Fly Forever Learning Academy

God of wisdom, from you come all good gifts of knowledge and learning. We pray that you would bless these gathered school supplies so that they may be of service in new discoveries of learning for the students at Fly Forever Learning Academy. We ask that you would bless all their students, their teachers and helpers, so that they might grow in new knowledge of the world you have created and come to know service to others. We especially give thanks for Albert Horne, and ask that you would bless his work as a teacher and mentor of so many. We ask these things in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The service continues with the readings.

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 32:7-14

Lisa Barnette, lector

⁷The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” ⁹The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.” ¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



Have mer - cy on me, O God, ac - cord-ing to your stead-fast love.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. ⁵Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. ⁶You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Lisa Barnette, lector

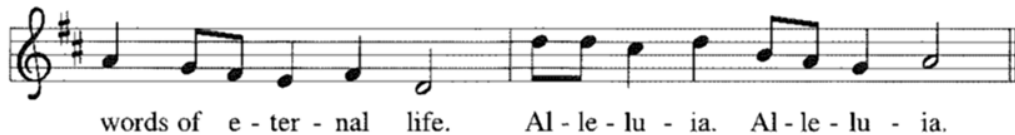
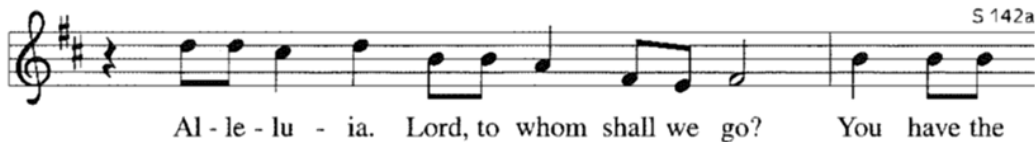
¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? from *Holy Communion Setting Three*



Please stand as able.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them

this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“God’s grace overflows”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Hymn of the Day

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW 779

NEW BRITAIN

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807. alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
5. When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

Blessing of Boards for Habitat for Humanity’s 2022 Fall Build

Prayer of Blessing

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, We give thanks for St. Mark’s ongoing participation in Habitat for Humanity. Let us pray for God’s blessing on the 2022 Habitat for Humanity Fall Build, the safety of all who work, and for the peace of those who will live in this new dwelling. As a symbol of our participation, we offer prayers for these boards which will be incorporated into this home.

On each of the boards, the following verse has been written, "The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore" (Psalm 121:8).

Let us pray. O Lord God, Jesus, the stone which the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone of the church and of our lives. We ask that as this Habitat for Humanity home is built, Christ the cornerstone, would bless and dwell in this home. Bless these boards, which will be fitted into this new home, and may Christ always dwell therein. May the construction of this home be successfully completed, and may you, O Lord, give light and peace to all who will dwell there. We pray this in the holy name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

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.

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. *A brief silence.*

All-sufficient God, in order to totally trust in you as we profess, we learn and are assured that it is for all times and in all situations. Whether we are in the midst of storms and troubles or when our lives are joyful and running smoothly, God's presence is sufficient and trustworthy always. Lord, we rely on this foundation of faith to give us comfort through our devotion. Be patient with us in our seemingly one-sided prayerful requests and acknowledgements. You are all-sufficient for every burden we have and for every praise we uplift in your name. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creator God, creation groans, suffering under the weight of human neglect and greed, pollution and misuse. As the seasons change, renew in us a will to protect your creation, its plants, animals, habitats and fellow human beings. As the seasons change, bless us with bountiful harvests that all might share in your abundance, and that no one goes hungry. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Compassionate Lord, it seems that each day we see behaviors in the community that are un-caring, selfish, single-minded and recklessly harmful. Lord, please show us the need for your presence to work in the lives of those that have lost their way in caring for other people, their property, and the domestic and wild creatures that cannot fend for themselves. In your compassion, encourage and set the hearts of individuals and corporations with love and caring for others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you promise to create a clean heart - a new and right spirit in human beings. Grant wholeness of mind, body and spirit to all who suffer in any way. Search out the lost and the weak so that all who suffer might know the joy of your steadfast love. We remember loved ones in need of your strength: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis,

Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Kota Lorensen, Jon McKenzie, Betty Lentz, Ingrid Keiris, and the Sayles-Studer family. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Lord of faithfulness: We know in our hearts that there are many challenges ahead for St. Mark's and the greater church to sustain the best from the past and to grow our churches in the mission of the faithful Christians to live as Jesus commissioned. Soften the hearts of the un-churched, the non-believers and lost sheep, as you have done throughout history, so that they will seek out a place to belong or shelter in a faith community. Shine a light on the needs of our church and help us offer hospitality to all those that come through the door or visit the website seeking God. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Lord of Eternity, with thankful hearts we remember the blessed saints who have been examples of faith in our lives; help us to turn anew to you each day, and grant us grace to follow your Son the Good Shepherd, always trusting that you have prepared a place for us in your eternal kingdom. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

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

MEAL

OFFERING

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

Anthem

"God's Work, Our Hands"

Wayne L. Wold

*God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in
your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.*

*God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal. Bless, God,
our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.*

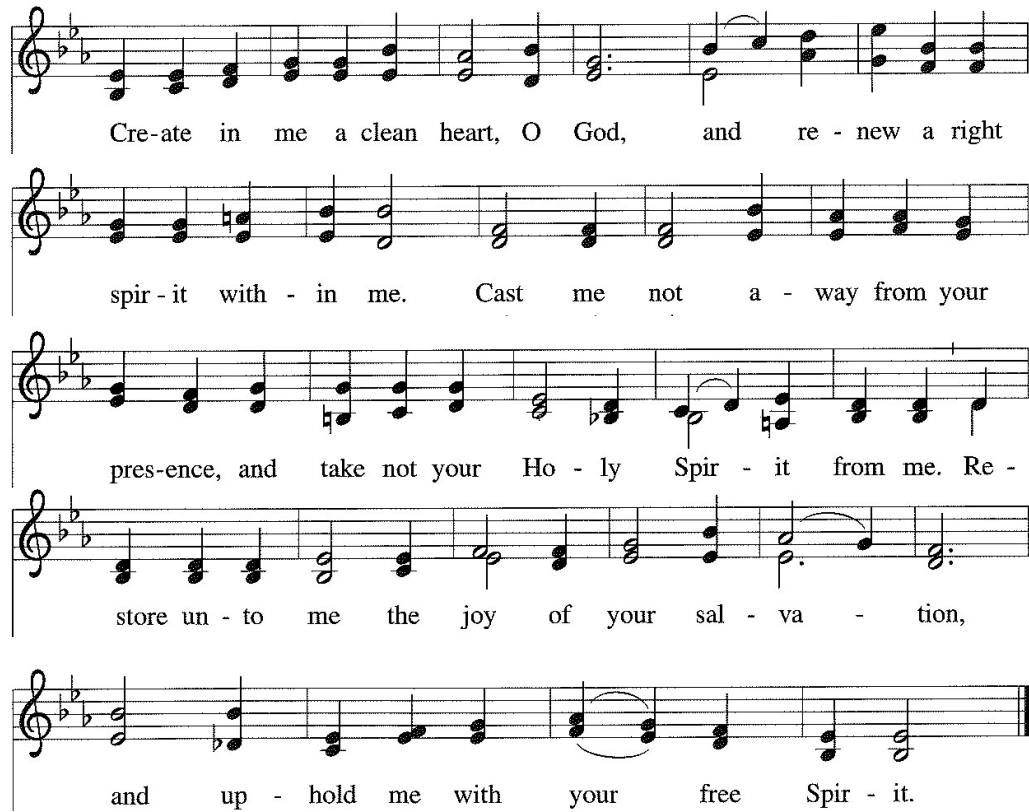
*God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.*

*God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.*

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW 188



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

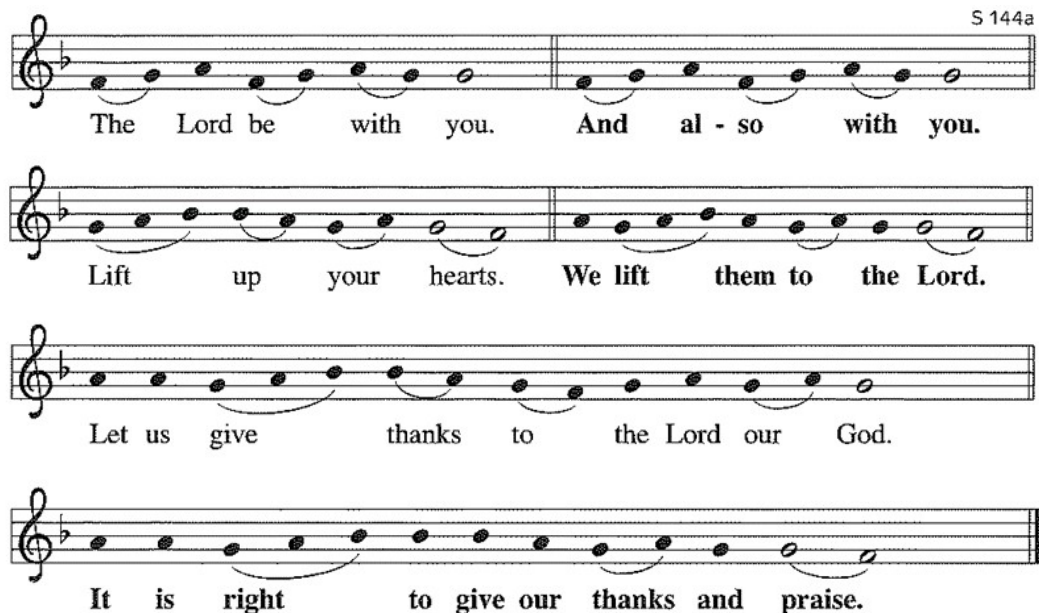
Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving



S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Three

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

The 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 invites you to this table.
Come, taste and see.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by

“Communion Kit” or wafer and wine in a small cup. Please follow the ushers’ prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station, and returning via the side aisles. If receiving a “kit” please seal the used utensils in the zip-lock bag, placing the bag after worship in the marked bowl in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

Communion Music

“Lamb of God” from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

“Variations on ‘Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing’”

Tune NETTLETON by John Wyeth; Organ setting by Albert L. Travis

“Amazing Grace” from *Humility to Hallelujah for Trumpet and Organ*

Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ELW 807

NETTLETON

1. Come, thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer: “Hither by thy help I’ve come”;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand’ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand’ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.; Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Gigue” from *Suite in D Major for Trumpet and Organ*

G. F. Handel

✠ ✠ ✠

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayers: Lisa Barnette; crucifer: Michael Lakeman; acolyte: Maddie Thompson; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Patrick & Rebecca Huang, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Flora Chance, Charles Lakeman, Carol Goodall, Lawanna Stoeckel; communion helper: Catherine Metze; nursery attendant: none, GWOH; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Meg Fielding; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir; Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, cantors; Gabriel Slesinger, trumpet; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Marty Schwartz; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team D; greeters: Millie Cansler, Bill & Jane Thompson; communion assistants: Ruth Barrett, Cliff Edahl, Carol Goodall, Ken Hazen, Jay Jacob; communion helper: Kay Finlon; nursery attendant: Shelley & Kendall Ferner; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Alan Harms

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Parish News

From the pastor -

It is a joy to gather together as Christ's body! Though masks are optional at St. Mark's, we support all who choose to wear a mask. We continue to support the following Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH) directives:

- Stay up to date with initial and booster vaccine doses.
- Wear a high-quality mask in indoor public settings, as appropriate.
- Stay home and take a COVID-19 test, if experiencing symptoms. If positive, quickly notify any close contacts.

Masks are always available in the Narthex should you need one.

St. Paul writes, "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-5)

We share in one another's sufferings, knowing that God works hope through each of us, pouring out love for the sake of one another and the world.

In the hope and love of Christ,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in remembrance of 9.11.01 by Lynda & Patrick Walters. "God is our merciful Father, and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we may comfort others."-2 Corinthians 1:3-4. We will never forget. God bless America.

Today is God's Work Our Hands Sunday. Today, along with all the churches of the ELCA, we join

our hands together as a visible sign of Jesus alive in the world through the work of our hands. If you are volunteering, please stay for lunch and join us to work with our hands for God and neighbor!

The LOVE CIRCLE will meet this Wednesday, September 14 at 11:00 in the Large Conference room. Anyone looking for a daytime Bible study is welcome to join us.

2022 Acolyte and Crucifer Training: 9/18 after worship, for all youth. Led by Pastor Tim, Susan Lakeman and Liz Boldman. All youth are encouraged to attend.

The Saint Mark's Book Study Group will meet on Thursday, September 22 at 10 am—both in person and via Zoom. All are invited to participate. Our study this month is *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. Esme, a young and irrepressibly curious girl, spends her childhood in the Scriptorium (a garden shed in Oxford) in which her father and a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. As she grows up, Esme realizes that words and meanings relating to women's and ordinary folks' experiences often go unrecorded. Therefore, she begins in earnest to search out words for her dictionary: the Dictionary of Lost Words. Set during the height of the women's suffrage movement and with the Great War looming, *The Dictionary of Lost Words* reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men. Inspired by actual events, author Pip Williams has delved into the archives of the Oxford English Dictionary to tell this highly original story. For additional information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.

Bereavement Coordinator Position Open The Congregational Life Committee is seeking a coordinator for our Bereavement sub-committee. This person (or persons - it could be a team of two) would serve as the liaison between Pastor McKenzie and our committee when there is a death in our congregation. Offering a time of fellowship to bereaved families in our congregation is a time-honored tradition that has provided comfort and consolation to many, many people throughout our church's long history, and we hope to be able to continue this tradition. Please contact any of the following if you'd like to discuss this position or would like to volunteer, see Jane McCall, Susan Lakeman, or Karen Feezor.

We thank you for your prayerful consideration of this position and pray that the Holy Spirit will move among us so that we can continue our Bereavement Ministry.

Vespers at St. Mark's: "Bach to Big Band"

Charlotte Brass Quintet Fall Concert, Sunday, September 25 at 5pm. Mark your calendars!

October Book Swap We're going to have a book swap! Do you have books you enjoyed reading and now want to share with friends? Or, have you just run out of room for any more books? Start collecting them to bring to the Gathering Place in October. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

Committee for Visible Partnerships This committee has been appointed by St. Mark's Congregation Council for the purpose of exploring and envisioning the use of St. Mark's building by outside organizations in the furtherance Christ's mission by raising awareness of our presence in this community. Committee members are: Cliff Edahl, Genna Hurley, Rob Johnson, Gretchen Payne, Melissa Smith and Pastor Tim McKenzie.

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. Please join us as you are able.

The Faith Forum class invites everyone to join us at 9:30 in the Large Conference room for study and reflection on the Holy Scriptures.

"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 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

Ushers for Sunday Worship The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the Church. Please Volunteer by contacting the church office or John Simon.

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Stewardship

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Donations for Altar Flowers may be made using this code also.



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.

Social Ministry

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

A FALL DRIVE TO ASSIST PAT'S PLACE. Pat's Place is a child advocacy agency that coordinates the investigation, treatment, counseling and prosecution involving the most severe cases of child abuse, physical or sexual and any child witnessing a violent crime. After these children have been brought to the agency by a parent, police officer or DSS, they are interviewed, medically treated if needed, and statements taken privately by trained professionals. The agency then proceeds with the case and the child is free to leave, but not before being led to the "gift box". We are requesting donations to replenish the box as a couple hundred small gifts are needed each year. Suggestions for these items are listed on the poster in the gathering place. Please help replace the children's arrival tears with a smile!

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

Theology on Tap: Thursdays at 6:30 pm for young adults and the young at heart. **September 22:** Leroy Fox Cotswold, 705 S. Sharon Amity Rd. (no TOT 9/15)

Youth Classes

Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play at 10:30 in the Children's Library.

Confirmation Class resumes 9/25 at 9:30. Please see Pastor or Liz Boldman for details.

Announcements

Open Eyes Help Everyone! If you see leaking pipes or something amiss in the building, please contact the church office.

Scam Alert We have again seen a rise in people posing as the pastor or a member of St. Mark's, asking for a reply or to click on an encrypted file. Please do not reply to any email or click on any attachment that seems suspicious. Also please

know that the church staff will never ever solicit from you. If you are ever in doubt, please call the church (704-375-9185), or email the church office immediately (stmarkselca1001@gmail.com). Thank you.

AA meets Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m. in Room 210; Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Music Notes

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" ELW 779 is from the pen of John Newton (1725-1807), and was first published in 1779. This text is a personal testimony of Newton's conversion experience, of a man whose early life on a slave ship was turned around by an "amazing grace" that "saved a wretch like me." Newton wrote six stanzas, the first four printed in our hymnal. Our fifth stanza, though joined to this hymn, is not by Newton, the writer unknown. Here is one of the additional verses, not often included in modern hymnbooks: "The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine; But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine." The tune **NEW BRITAIN** is another example of a fine Southern Harmony shape-note tune. It is also a pentatonic tune, meaning the melody has only five tones, plus it's octave. The tune was first joined to "Amazing Grace" in William Walker's *The Southern Harmony* (New Haven, 1835), a collection of southern Appalachian folk tunes that came from English, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh sources

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

September 13, John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople (c.349-407)

John was a priest at Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence learned him the name "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"), but it also got him into trouble with the royal court for his preaching against corruption. The empress who had been a supporter sent him into exile. His sermons remain in print, and continue to inspire contemporary readers.

September 14, Holy Cross Day

Helena (died c.330), the mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to Israel to look for Christian holy sites. She found what she believed were the sites of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, sites that modern archeologists believe may be correct. Constantine built two churches on these sites. The celebration of Holy Cross Day originated with the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection in 335. Today this festival allows the church to celebrate the cross and its meaning during a time other than Lent.

September 17, Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen (1098-1179)

Hildegard lived virtually her entire life in convents, yet was widely influential within the church. After an uneventful time as a nun, she was chosen abbess of her community. She reformed her community as well as other convents. Around the same time, she began having visions and compiled them, as instructed, in a book she called *Scivias*. *Scivias* is a contraction of *Sci vias Domini* (*Know the Ways of the Lord*). Hildegard's importance went beyond mysticism. She also advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. ELW 399 "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life" is based upon her writings.

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11,
2022**



God's Work ~ Our Hands

**COOKOUT LUNCH WILL BE
PROVIDED FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

DURING WORSHIP!
BLESSING OF SCHOOL
SUPPLIES & BACKPACKS
BLESSING OF WOOD FOR
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

EVENTS AFTER WORSHIP!
SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR
LEARNING ACADEMY
PAINT THE YOUTH ROOM
MEN'S GROUP GROUNDS
CLEAN-UP



Donations for pat's place

a child advocacy agency

Social Ministry is requesting donations of small gifts for the children who are helped at pat's place. Suggestions for these items are listed on the poster in the gathering place. Please help replace the children's arrival tears with a smile!

The Charlotte Museum of History 2022 Mad About Modern Tour

St. Mark's has been chosen
for the 11th annual tour!
Saturday, September 24
10 am to 4 pm

For more information please visit:
<https://charlottemuseum.org/programs-events/>

This is a Museum fundraiser, with proceeds supporting their mission to preserve Charlotte's unique history, enrich the community through shared understanding of the past, and inspire dialogue about the future.



704-375-9815
1001 Queens Road
Charlotte, NC
SaintMarksCharlotte.org

VESPERS AT ST. MARK'S

"Bach to Big Band"

CHARLOTTE BRASS QUINTET FALL CONCERT



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

5:00PM



[SaintMarksCharlotte.org](https://www.saintmarkscharlotte.org)

704-375-9815



1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC

St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Kota Lorensen, Jon McKenzie, Betty Lentz, Ingrid Keiris, and the Sayles-Studer family.

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

Readings for 9/18/2022, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
*The Lord lifts up the poor
from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)*
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Birthdays

9/11 Tom Conner
9/11 Macalynne Zimmermann
9/11 Michael Zimmerman, Jr.
9/11 Amanda Platt
9/13 Mary Roof Bowman
9/13 Nicholas Howarth
9/14 Jamie Dotson
9/16 Kay Sehorn
9/16 Roxi Tolbert
9/17 Derek Dittner
9/17 Tyler Andujar, Jr.



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. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Lester Ackerman,
Director of Music Ministry, Organist
lackerman2@aol.com

Liz Boldman, Director of Family Ministry
lizsaintmarks@gmail.com

Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator
stmarkselca1001@gmail.com

Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator
saintmarksfinance@gmail.com

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | saintmarkscharlotte.org | 704.375.9185