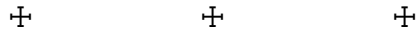




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



FEBRUARY 19, 2023

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

As the season of Epiphany ends, Jesus is revealed on a high mountain as God's beloved Son, echoing the words spoken at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus comes down the mountain to face servanthood, suffering and the cross in Jerusalem. Jesus accompanies us down the mountain, as we also turn this week, to Ash Wednesday and our Lenten journey to the way of the cross and the joy of the resurrection.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Here I Am, Lord”

Tune by Daniel L. Schutte

Setting for Trumpet and Organ by David Howard Pettit

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness” ELW 318

PRAISE, MY SOUL

1. Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.
2. Alleluia you are sounding, true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother, bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles still are we.
3. Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin shall flow.
4. In our hymns we pray with longing: Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

Please be seated.

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 makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Thus says our God:
“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”
God's mercy makes us new.
We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.
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, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

Kelly Price, lector

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 2

Amy Woodall, Micah Hein, cantors

Psalm 2:7 (Robert Wetzler) Psalm refrain reproduced for Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Sugsburg Fortress



You are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

¹Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying, ³“Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.” ⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. ⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶“I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.” ⁷I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have begotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” ¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, with trembling ¹²kiss his feet, or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Happy are all who take refuge in him.

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

Kelly Price, lector

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

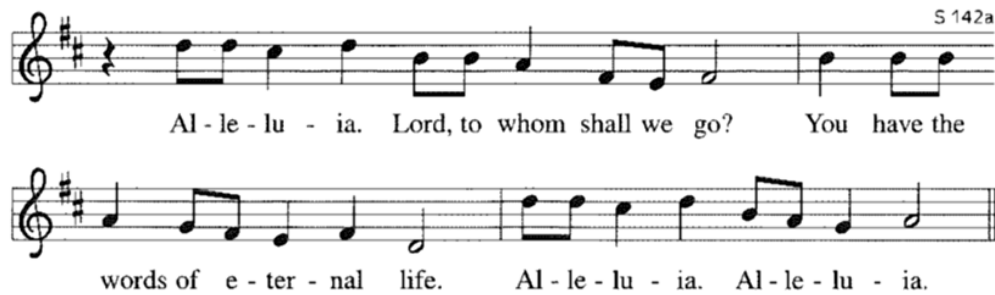
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

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



The Holy Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Do not be afraid”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Shine, Jesus, Shine” ELW 671

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth
you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*
2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives
tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

Text & Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950 © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

Reception of New Members

The pastor invites new members and sponsors to come forward.

Today we welcome into membership Bob and Ingrid Chernet, Andrea Long, and Michael Fry, and we pray God's blessing upon their journey with Jesus Christ and his body, gathered together in the power of the Holy Spirit at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Bob and Ingrid's sponsors are Millie Cansler and Evelyn Gerdes. Andrea's sponsors are Lester Ackerman and Layton Campbell. Michael's sponsor is Judy, his wife, who also stands in for Michael today because Michael continues in full-time interim ministry.

Bob and Ingrid, Andrea, and Michael, we welcome you as members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church to join with us in worshiping God, hearing the Word and sharing in the Lord's Supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

The Apostles' Creed

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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.**

Let us pray. Merciful God, we give you thanks for these new sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in Holy Baptism. You have called them in Christ and enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and you have nourished them at Christ's holy table. Uphold these your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new life in Christ. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us rejoice with these new sisters and brothers in Christ!

We rejoice with you in the life of the baptized.

**Together, we will give thanks and praise to God and
proclaim the good news to all the world!**

The service continues with the Prayers. The congregation may kneel or sit.

Prayers of Intercession

(Michael Lakeman, prayer assistant)

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

God of all nations, embolden your church to witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ. Equip all Christians, lay leaders, deacons, and pastors. Lift us from fear and anxiety to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives always proclaim your greatness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of Peace, we pray for every leader around the world, give them wisdom and discernment as they lead. We pray that you would surround each one of them with wise counsel, that they would be humble and kind, patient and loving through their actions and words. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for the people of Türkiye and Syria who suffered during the earthquakes. Bring them comfort, love, and strength as they recover. We pray for those who lost loved ones and their homes. Grant those affected courage and resilience as they rebuild their lives and communities. We also remember all who suffer in any way, and we especially remember: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, 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, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, Sam Temple, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Henry & Sharon Vander Voort, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, Marilyn Creech, Lisa White, and John Simon. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God the Word, make us eager to receive your Word in the mountaintop of scripture, and to walk down the mountain with Jesus, to hear and see him revealed in our neighbors; strengthen our faith to confidently to follow the way of the cross in service to others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, you call the least, the forgotten, and the sinful; help us to walk in the footsteps of all these saints who have followed your call, and teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns and the morning star rises. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

Peace

(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

(Offerings for the mission of the church, and those in need, may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance)

Please be seated.

Anthem

“Jesus, on the Mountain Peak”

Michael Burkhardt

Setting for choir, trumpet and organ

*Jesus, on the mountain peak, stands alone in glory blazing. Let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking. All the Prophets and the Law shout through them their joyful greeting: Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia! Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in its thunder, Jesus as the Son by Name! Nations, cry aloud in
wonder: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Jesus is the chosen One, living hope of ev'ry nation, hear and heed him, ev'ry one; sing,
with earth and all creation, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” ELW 815

HOUSTON

Text & Music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 © 1970, 1975 Celebration

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

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.

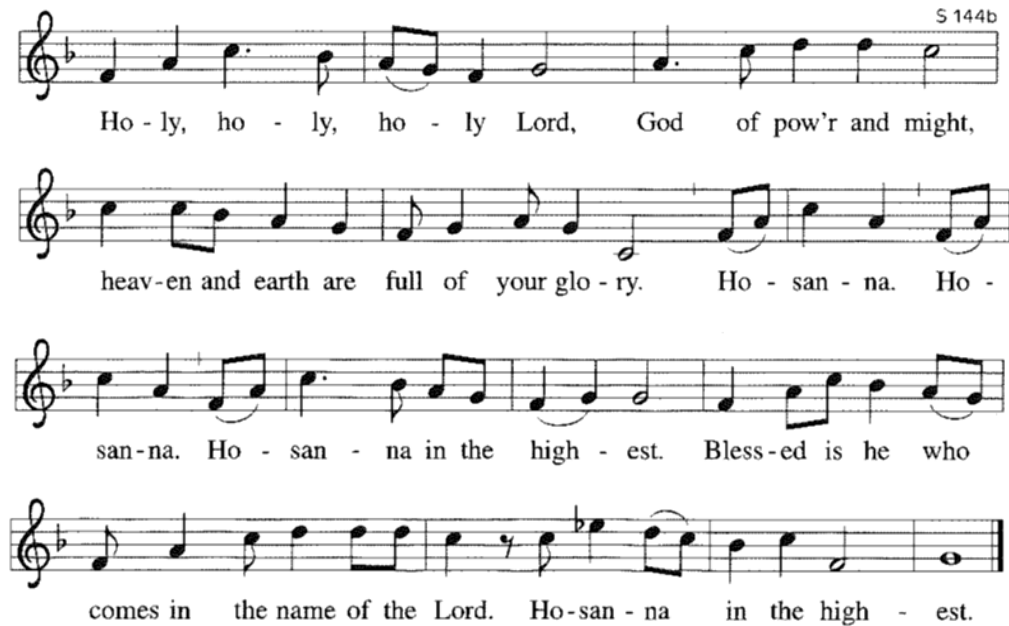
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *Holy Communion Setting Three*



S 144b

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

Come and taste the joy of God!

Please be seated.

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

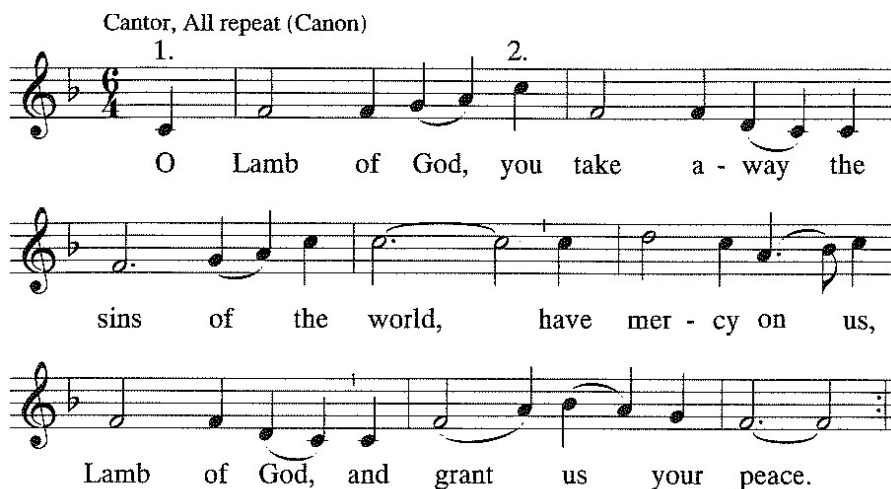
“Communion Kit” or wafer and wine in a small cup. Please follow the ushers’ prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station, and returning via the side aisles. If receiving a “kit” please seal the used utensils in the zip-lock bag, placing the bag after worship in the marked bowl in the Narthex.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

Communion Music

“Lamb of God” from *Land of Rest Acclamations*

LAND OF REST; Arranged by Richard Proulx

Cantor, All repeat (Canon)



1. 2.

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us,
Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.

“Aria” from *Sonata for Trumpet, Opus 51*

Flor Peeters
Gabriel Slesinger, trumpet

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Arise, Your Light Has Come” ELW 314

FESTAL SONG

1. Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

2. Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.
3. Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
4. Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Dick, b. 1947; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893, T&M: 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Allegro” from *Sonata in C Major for Trumpet*

Tommaso Albinoni

+ + +

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Michael Lakeman; crucifer: Michael Lakeman; acolyte: Andrew Puky; lector: Kelly Price; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Jay Jacob, Millie Cansler; communion assistants: Flora Chance, Cliff Edahl, Ken Hazen, Jay Jacob, Al. J. Pridgen; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Doug Milheim, Diane Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir, Gabriel Slesinger, trumpet; Micah Hein, Amy Woodall, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Marty Schwartz; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team D; greeters: Eileen Dunlap, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion assistants: Flora Kevin & Karen Feezor, Janice Miller, A. J. Pridgen, Lawanna Stoeckel; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Kevin Feezor

+ + +

Parish News

From the pastor -

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

The season of Epiphany is four to nine weeks (depending on the date of Easter), lasting from the Feast of Epiphany (January 6) through the day before Ash Wednesday (this year, February 22). The season of Epiphany as a whole focuses upon the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ. At Epiphany, Jesus' birth is announced through the Magi to the nations, and the season continues to witness to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, his baptism, the calling of his disciples, and his proclamation of the good news. The focus of this season is ever outward toward the world and all nations, hinting at the scope of our proclamation and work as modern-day Christians. On the final Sunday of this season, The Transfiguration (February 19), we see the fullness of Christ's divinity revealed in his humanity, again hinting at the gift of his Spirit which dwells in us. Epiphany is a season in which we respond in faith and service to Jesus Christ, as his contemporary day disciples and messengers, always moving ever outward with faith active in love.

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

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Altar Flowers Today are given by Marc and Susan Ginns to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of their daughter Ashley Dianne Ginns to Brett Edward Ebener, which took place yesterday.

Welcome! Today we welcome Bob & Ingrid Chernet, Andrea Long, and Rev. Dr. Michael Fry into membership at St. Mark's and pray God's blessing upon their continued journey with Christ's body at St. Mark's. Please take a moment to

welcome these new members into our fellowship!

Offering Plates The passing of offering plates at the 10:30 Service has resumed. Thank you for your faithful giving to St. Mark's mission in this world.

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will meet on Thursday, 2/23/23, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our book this month is *Dead Reckoning* by Dick Lehr. This is the epic true story of the high-stakes operation undertaken in retaliation for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Dick Lehr expertly crafts a recreation of the tension-filled events leading up to the climactic clash in the South Pacific skies using the only US fighter plane on Guadalcanal capable of this feat—the new twin-engine P-38. The target of the mission is Admiral Yamamoto, the enigmatic, charismatic commander in chief of Japan's Combined Fleet. All are most welcome to participate in this fascinating study. Please contact Judy Tolbert or Kay Sehorn for more information.

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday 2/22 Imposition of Ashes 12:15, 7 pm

Lenten Midweek Worship 7 pm (in-person and online)

Lenten Wednesday Supper 6 pm-6:45 pm Fellowship Hall, beginning March 1.

Lenten Box offerings will benefit Refugee Support Service. Your offering will help buy infant car seats for our new littlest neighbors. Please pick up a box in the Gathering Place.

ROOM IN THE INN We are concentrating on only the month of February to host 10 homeless men each Tuesday. Volunteers will be needed to supply dinner, breakfast and bag lunches each week, and especially night sitters and van drivers. **Please sign up** in the Gathering Place. **NEEDED - TRAVEL SIZE MEN'S DEODORANT** .

Volunteers needed to answer the phone at the front desk, Monday-Wednesday, 10 am to 2 pm. Please call or email if you would like to help. Thank you!

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at **Malaya Kitchen** in The Arboretum Shopping Center on **February 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM**. Malaya Kitchen

moved from Uptown to the Arboretum pre-pandemic due to CPCC expansion. The address is **8200-400 Providence Rd, Charlotte, NC 28277**. The cuisine is pan-Asian, and the components are quite recognizable, with individualized customer-control over any excursions of flavoring. The menu is extensive, with all recipes tuned over the years to local preferences. The atmosphere is casual and friendly. Come join the fun, and bring a friend to share the experience! All people are welcome. Please **RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert (please call the church office) by the Sunday afternoon** before the dinner. We look forward to seeing many of you at Malaya Kitchen.

Carolina Pro Musica "Sources of the Baroque" Concert 2/24/23 at 7:30pm. Carolina Pro Musica is pleased to present an all-Italian music program featuring important early 18th century composers. These musicians worked in major Italian cities and charted the paths for the Baroque. The concert will include works by little-known composers like Dario Castello, and Domenico Sarri, as well as Corelli, Marcello, Veracini and Bononcini. Henry Trexler, double bass joins Carolina Pro Musica regulars for diverse program of cantatas and trio sonatas.

Theology on Tap is back! March 9 at 7pm at Resident Culture Brewery located at 2101 Central Avenue. Michael Thompson will facilitate the discussion.

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. Please join us as you are able. Explore the life and faith of C. S. Lewis each Sunday at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. Examine Lewis's experiences with doubt, conversion, grief, and joy and how to apply those lessons today. Professor Michael Ward leads this video course based on Lewis's classic writings.

"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 (<https://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

2023 Stewardship Appeal

If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge of support for St. Mark's in 2023. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

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



2023 Offering Envelopes If you would like a box of offering envelopes, please contact Jessie Craig at saintmarksfinance@gmail.com, or call the church office.

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.

Social Ministry

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

Loaves and Fishes Please remember families who need some assistance putting food on the table every day. Let's continue to overflow our baker's rack with non-perishable, **non-breakable** food items. Or you can leave your donation by the choir room door from 10:00 - 2:00 Monday - Thursday. "I was hungry and you gave me food" Matt.25:35

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for 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 Classes

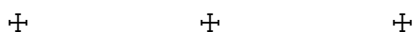
Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play has been temporarily paused.

Confirmation Class meets every other Sunday at 9:30.

Announcements

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

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

"Alleluia, Song of Gladness" ELW 318, is the last hymn in the Epiphany section of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Hymns on this Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration of Our Lord reflect the end of one season, and anticipate the beginning of our Lenten journey this next week. This 11th century Latin hymn was translated into English by John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and comes to us from a time when the alleluias were "buried". and no longer sung or spoken in worship during the season of Lent. The third stanza reminds us "Alleluias cannot always be our song while here below". The tune **PRAISE, MY SOUL** was written by John Goss in 1868 for the hymn "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" (ELW 865).

"Arise, Your Light Has Come" ELW 314 Ruth Duck (b. 1947) liturgical theologian and retired professor of worship who taught for twenty-seven years at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, penned this hymn to revise the popular hymn "Rise Up, O Men of God" by William P. Merrill (1867-1954). Merrill's hymn was written in 1911 for men, for a gathering of the Brotherhood Movement in the Presbyterian Church. Duck wrote her hymn for the Ecumenical Women's Center in 1974, and is the first of her texts to be included in a major denominational hymnal, *Rejoice in the Lord* (Grand Rapids, 1985). Ruth's hymn focuses on light and the release from captivity that the Spirit brings, appropriate for this time after Epiphany. William H. Walter (1825-1893) nineteenth century American organist and composer, wrote the tune **FESTAL SONG** with it's first appearance in *The Hymnal with Times Old and New* (New York, 1872). This tune is paired with three hymns in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

February 23, Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr (69-155)


Polycarp was a link between the apostolic age and the church at the end of the second century. He is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, and was known by Irenaeus, bishop of Lyon in France. As the age of eighty-six he was martyred for his faith. Urged to save his life and renounce his faith, Polycarp replied, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" Polycarp was burned at the stake, his death a testimony to the cost of following Christ. Ignatius of Antioch, who was also martyred (c.110), wrote to Polycarp, "Stand firm like an anvil being struck by a hammer. It is the mark of a great athlete to be

bruised, yet still conquer. Wait for him who is above time: the Eternal, the Invisible, who for our sake became visible; the Intangible, the Unsuffering, who for our sake suffered, who for our sake endured in every way."

February 25, Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess (1850-1921)

Fedde was born in Norway and trained as a deaconess. In 1882, at the age of thirty-two, she was asked to come to New York to minister to the poor and to Norwegian seamen. She founded the Norwegian Relief Society to work among immigrants. Her influence was wide-ranging, and she established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn to train women as deaconesses, which eventually became NYU Lutheran Medical Center. Fedde founded the the Deaconess House and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church in Minneapolis, and helped plan hospitals in Chicago and North Dakota.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons



Imposition of Ashes
February 22, 2023

ASH
WEDNESDAY
12:15 pm
7:00 pm (also live on Facebook)



Carolina Pro Musica
IN CONCERT

"Sources of the Baroque"
February 24, 2023
7:30 pm

Italy was the place for new ideas in the 17th century for art and music. The concepts spread across Europe and beyond. Enter the Baroque period. Works by Castello, Marcello, Bononcini, Veracini, Sarro, and Corelli.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

TICKET RESERVATION:
[HTTPS://WWW.CAROLINAPROMUSICA.ORG/SCHEDULE](https://www.carolinapromusica.org/schedule)

1001 Queens Road, Charlotte 704-375-9185 www.SaintMarksCharlotte.org

Half price tickets for SMLC!!
Enter SMHalfOff on CPM website



Mid-Week
Lenten
Services

The Lenten Journey:
Dying and Rising with Christ

March 1 - 29, 2023
6 - 6:45 pm Supper
7 pm Service

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, 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, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Ingrid Keiris, Sam Temple, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Henry & Sharon Vander Voort, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, Marilyn Creech, Lisa White, and John Simon.

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

Readings for 2/26/2023,

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (Ps. 2:7)

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Birthdays

2/21 Max Doyne

2/23 Judy Tolbert

2/24 Alice Blackwelder



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

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