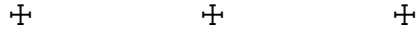




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



FEBRUARY 26, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Jesus' forty-day fast and temptation in the wilderness are the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage as we struggle with sin and as we prepare for Easter. At the heart of the Lenten journey the waters of baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit strengthen us as they did Jesus. Throughout Lent, we are fed with the free gift of grace from the Lord's table, sustaining us on our way.*

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**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of Light”

Tune HOUSTON by Kathleen Thomerson

Setting for Handbells by Sondra Tucker

*Please stand as able.*

**Processional Hymn**

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618

CWM RHONDDA

1. Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore
2. Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Song and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791 tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt; Music: John Huges, 1873-1952

*Please be seated.*

**Welcome**

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

## 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 journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

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

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
† forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**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.**

## Kyrie

“O Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” from *All Creation Sings*  
Christian Souza, cantor; Holy Communion Setting Eleven

Leader or All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.  
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.  
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.  
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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.*

### Musical Interlude

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

English Folk Tune

Setting for Handbells by Kevin McChesney

## WORD

### First Reading

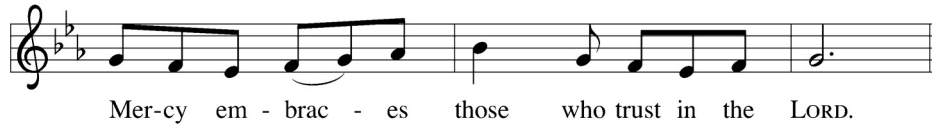
**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

Marty Schwartz, lector

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” <sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**



Psalm 32:10 (May Schwarz) Psalm refrain reproduced for Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. <sup>3</sup>While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* <sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah* <sup>6</sup>Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. <sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah* <sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. <sup>9</sup>Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. <sup>10</sup>Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. <sup>11</sup>Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**Second Reading**

**Romans 5:12-19**

Marty Schwartz, lector

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— <sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

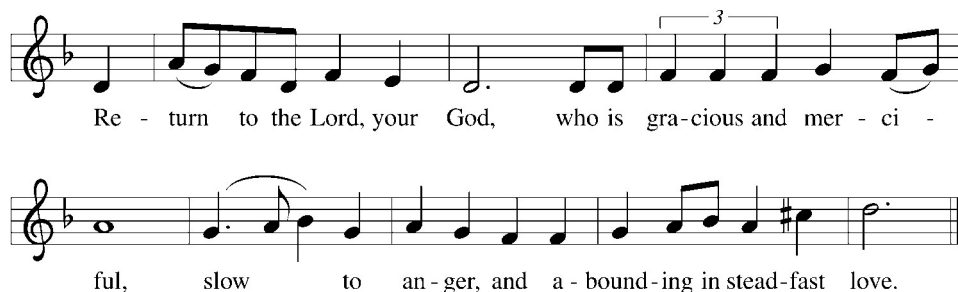
*Please stand as able.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

“Return to the Lord”

Anna Krentz Organ

Text: Joel 2:13; Music: © 2009 Augsburg Fortress



## **The Holy Gospel                    Matthew 4:1-11**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthen, the 4th chapter.*

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Sermon**

*“The free gift of grace”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

### **Hymn of the Day**

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” ELW 325

SOJOURNER

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text & Music: African American spiritual; Music arr. hymnal version; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

### **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.**

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

### **Prayers of Intercession**

(Charles Lakeman, prayer assistant)

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Lord, you have chosen us and set us aside for service in the places where we live, work and move. You have called us to be lights in dark places, drawing others to you. You have called us to speak out, proclaiming your love, justice and mercy. You have called us to be neighbors to all. For this privilege of service, we thank you but also ask humbly for your power and strength without which we can do nothing. Fill us, we pray, with your Spirit that we might live and work to your praise and glory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of Wisdom, you are the source of mission and of the ministry of this congregation; inspire and strengthen us during Lent to renew our trust in you and in your mission through all of our ministries. Renew our vision and grant us the grace of faith to walk with Jesus and with all people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, you command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places, oceans and rivers, mountains, valleys, forests and prairies. Help us to live in harmony with your creation and make us faithful stewards of the fragile bounty of this earth for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you are the holy refuge of all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany refugees and immigrants as they seek safety and community. Grant healing to the sick and peace to the dying; bless all who care for others in distress and illness. Bless and encourage members of our church family: 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, John Simon, and Dan Price. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lord, your love extends to the boundaries of humankind, to rich and poor, to haves and have-nots, to oppressed and oppressor, to victim and thief, for we are all inheritors of a fallen nature and are all in need of your forgiveness. We pray for all your children wherever they might be, in their joy and sorrow, fear

and loathing, pain and suffering. We pray especially for the people of Ukraine and of Syria and Turkey suffering through natural and man-made tragedies. Comfort those who mourn, grant hope for survivors and rescue workers, and wisdom and compassion for leaders around the world as they work to bring an end to the suffering. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of Grace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you give the free gift of grace for all people. We remember the faithful departed who have embraced your grace and love; unite our hearts with theirs so that we also might journey through the temptations of this wilderness to your eternal kingdom of grace and light. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**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** "A Lenten Walk" (Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley)  
American Spiritual; Setting for Choir and Organ by Hal H. Hopson  
*Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself; Oh, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself. We must walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it by ourselves; Oh, nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk it by ourselves. Jesus bore the cross of sorrow; he had to bear it by himself; Oh, nobody else could bear it for him, he had to bear it by himself. We must take our cross and follow; Yes, we must follow by ourselves; Oh, nobody else can follow for us, we have to follow by ourselves.*

**Offertory** *(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)*  
"Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW 188  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from you presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

**Offering Prayer**  
Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **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.

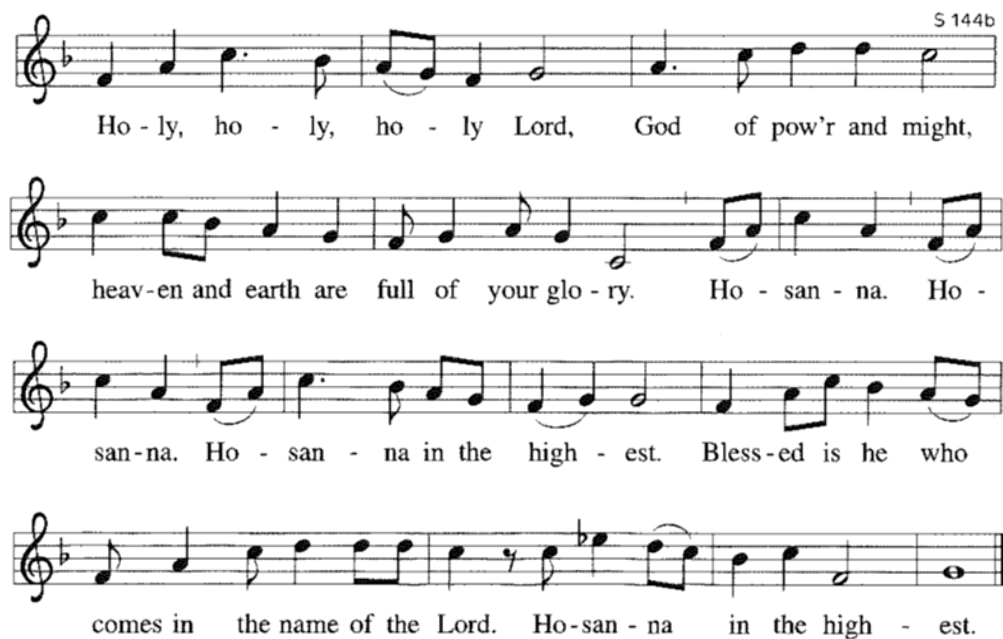
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### 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 receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

*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.

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Tune by Georg G. Boltze; Setting by Paul O. Manz  
Delenn Rumbolo, soprano; Christian Souza, baritone

*Let us ever walk with Jesus follow His example pure, flee the world, which would deceive us and to sin our souls allure. Ever in His footsteps treading, body here, yet soul above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father's bidding, faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead, I follow Thee.*

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

Tune ERHALT UNS, HERR by Johann Klug  
Organ Setting by Johann Gotfried Walther

*Please stand as able.*

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### **SENDING BLESSING**

God, the giver of love,

✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

“The Glory of These Forty Days” ELW 320

ERHALT UNS, HERR

1. The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.
2. Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.
3. So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lion's might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.
4. Then grant, O God, that we may, too, return in fast and prayer to you.  
Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt. Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543 Text Oxford University Press

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**Postlude**

“Oh, Love, How Deep”

15th Century English Ballad DEO GRACIAS  
Organ Setting by Stephen Gabrielsen

✝                      ✝                      ✝

This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Marty Schwartz; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Choir, St. Mark's Handbells; Jack Richardson, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Bill Schwartz; live streaming camera: Laura Foust; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team D; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Susan Lakeman, Nick Wartner, Gretchen Payne, Charles Lakeman; communion helper: tbd; tabulators: Charles Lakeman, Alan Harms

✝                      ✝                      ✝



## **Worship and Congregational Life**

### **Lenten Schedule**

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

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

**LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS:** During Lent we focus on Jesus' path to the cross and his sacrifice for us. One of our small sacrifices during this period is our donations into a small Lenten box. Boxes were passed out last Sunday and will be available after the service again today. The letter with the boxes explains the recipient of this year's donations - REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. Infant car seats will be purchased for the little ones of our recently arrived refugees. Be sure to put your name on the box along with your envelope number if you have one. Donations can be made several ways - daily loose change, paper money, or simply write a check to St. Mark's and put it in the box. Keep the box where you can see it as a constant reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and the infants we will be helping. Please return to church before Easter.

**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.

**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!

**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 Ethnic Restaurant Group** will dine at Southern Pecan in Phillips Place on March 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Southern Pecan is a relatively new restaurant that features Gulf Coast cuisine. It is operated by the same group that runs Café Monte. The address

is 6706 Phillips Place Ct, Charlotte, NC 28210. These dishes have distinctly Deep South profiles. The menu covers a wide range of favorites from the Gulf States. 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 (803-230-7073 or [tomtolbert@comporium.net](mailto:tomtolbert@comporium.net)) by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. We look forward to seeing many of you at Southern Pecan.

**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 (<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**

#### **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](mailto: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

**"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"** ELW 325 This hymn is usually classified as an African American spiritual in most hymnals and songbooks, though some call it "an American folk hymn" one of the many "white spirituals" which thrived for more than two hundred years in the rural Appalachian culture. Hence, we do not know its author. Paul Westermeyer says of this hymn: "the double entendre of these spirituals means the faith expressed in them is more multivalent and profound than what may appear on the surface. For example, this one may look like a request for Jesus to walk along the pilgrim journey. Though it is that, what makes it authentic and possible for the people is what lies behind it, an affirmation that the Jesus of their salvation is with those who sing." This tune **SOJOURNER** has no refrain, which is uncharacteristic of most African American tunes, and has more in common with an English/Welsh folk tune, probably brought to America by early settlers. The tune is named for Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) a slave, who after escaping, preached, sang, and advocated for women's rights and abolition. She met Harriet Beecher Stowe and President Abraham Lincoln.

**"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"** ELW 618 William Williams (1717-1791) affectionately known as the "sweet singer of Wales", was ordained as an Anglican deacon, but spent most of his life as an evangelistic preacher, covering nearly 100,000 miles of Wales on horseback. He wrote around 800 hymns, most in Welsh, with this one being the only one known outside of Wales. It was first published in 1745 with the original title "Strength to Pass Through the Wilderness." The Exodus and the journey through the wilderness to Canaan is the basis of the hymn with references to "Bread of heaven" (Exodus 16:4-18), "the crystal fountain" (Exodus 17:4-6), "the fiery, cloudy pillar" (Exodus 13:21) and "verge of Jordan" (Joshua 3:14-17). John Hughes (1873-1932) wrote the tune **CWM RHONDDA** ("Rhondda Valley") for a Baptist Welsh singing festival in 1903.

## *This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar*

### **March 1, George Herbert, hymnwriter (1593-1633)**

As a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, England, George Herbert excelled in languages and music. His scholastic ability earned him a fellowship, and his skill as the Public Orator of the university attracted the attention of King James I. Herbert served in Parliament for two years. After the death of King James and at the urging of a friend, Herbert's interest in ordained ministry was renewed. He was ordained a priest in 1630 and served the small parish of St. Andrew Bemerton until his death. He was noted for unflinching care of his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need. He was the younger brother of (Edward) Herbert of Cherbury the philosopher and deist. George Herbert is best remembered, however, as a writer of poems and hymns such as "Come, my way, my truth, my life" (ELW 816).

### **March 2, John Wesley (1703-1791); Charles Wesley (1707-1788); renewers of the church**

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline (or method) of frequent communion, fasting and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time, but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience during a Moravian meeting while listening to a reading of Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*, John "felt his heart strangely warmed." He went on to become perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth century revival. The brothers' desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal within the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed independently. Charles wrote more than six hundred hymns, including "Hark! The herald angels sing" (ELW 270), "Christ whose glory fills the skies" (ELW 553), and "Love divine, all loves excelling" (ELW 631).

*Adapted from Sundays and Seasons*

## 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, John Simon, and Dan Price.

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

### Readings for 3/5/2023, Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:1-4a

Psalm 121

*I lift my eyes to the hills; my help  
comes from the Lord. (Ps. 121:1,2)*

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

### Birthdays

2/26 Cynthia Little

3/1 Elaine Hazen

3/4 Virginia Edahl



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](mailto:pastortimsmc@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**

[lackerman2@aol.com](mailto:lackerman2@aol.com)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**

[stmarkselca1001@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkselca1001@gmail.com)

**Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator**

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

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | [saintmarkscharlotte.org](http://saintmarkscharlotte.org) | 704.375.9185