



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

† † †

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus calls us salt and light, people that flavor life with genuine humanity and compassion, and people who illuminate the darkness with hope and peace. We are baptized and sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ so that others might know God's justice and love. We are called to live with the wisdom and power of God in order that the hungry are fed, the homeless poor sheltered, and the naked clothed. As Isaiah writes, when we do these things, "Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am."

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

"Variations on 'Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies'"

Tune RATISBON by Johann Gottlob Werner; Organ setting by Robert Lind

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" ELW 553

RATISBON

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near; day-star, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Music: J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815

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 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. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading**Isaiah 58:1-9a**

Larry Lippert, lector

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

*The Word of the Lord***Thanks be to God****Psalm 112:1-9**

Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, cantors

Psalm 112:4 (Ronald A. Nelson) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

¹Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments. ²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. ⁴They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ⁵It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. ⁶For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. ⁷They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD. ⁸Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ⁹They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

Second Reading**1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

Larry Lippert, lector

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”— ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s

except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by 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*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel **Matthew 5:13-20**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“You are salt and light”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“This Little Light of Mine ” ELW 677

THIS JOY

1. This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text & Music: African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935 Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer

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

(Michael Thompson, prayer assistant)

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

God of mercy, You have asked your church to remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice. You taught us to share our food with the hungry and open our homes to the homeless and poor. You implored us to clothe the naked and help those in need. And yet as a society we continue to struggle with following the leading of your Son and his gospel of justice for the weak. Help us to better understand the true meaning of fasting so that Your favor will shine on your church and this world like the morning sun, and Your presence will protect us as we seek to protect others. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of creation, inspire our wonder at the worlds you have created, from the light of dawn to the saltiness of the earth. As we seek to understand the cosmos and search the depths of the seas, bring us to a knowledge of our place in this vast world, so that we might always use our knowledge to help and sustain all that has life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of wisdom, You have blessed us with intellect, curiosity, and an amazing capacity to learn. With those gifts we have evolved as a society and advanced in nearly every aspect of the human experience. But the knowledge that we truly need is found elsewhere, and for a different purpose. Guide us to Your secret wisdom, so that we may come to know all that you have given us and use these gifts in service to your creation and its diversity of nations and peoples. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of justice, loosen the bonds of injustice in our very midst. Grant peace to the world's endless divisions, quarrels and wars. Strengthen all who care for the sick and the dying, and put an end to hunger by breaking cycles and systems of oppression. Grant healing and peace to those in need: 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, Helen Howard, Henry & Sharon Vander Voort, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, Marilyn Creech, Lisa White and Gene & Marie Anne Daniels. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of light, give this congregation the courage, the strength, and the compassion to shine for others so that the world will know we belong to You. Bless our efforts in this community to give hope to the hopeless, peace to the troubled, and care to the neglected. May our hands do Your work. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of compassion, in Jesus and his cross you suffer with humanity, revealing your strength in weakness. We give you thanks for the witness of the saints who have proclaimed your mystery revealed in the cross. Grant to us an unshakable faith, like the Martyrs of Japan whose commemoration is today, so that our witness also shines forth as light in the darkness of this world, and bring us like them into the kingdom of heaven. 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

“Shine on Us, Lord Jesus”

Lee Dengler

You are the Light. You guide us in Your way. You are the Way that leads us to truth. You are the Truth that brings to us new life. Shine on us, Lord Jesus. You are the Life. Light of the world, we feel the radiance of Your glory. We trust in You to lead us through the night. We find our place within redemption's story, as we reflect Your love that shines so bright. Shine on us, Lord Jesus.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)

“Gather Us In” ELW 532

GATHER US IN

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.c.

- Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff continues with: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff continues with: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff concludes with: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The notation consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs, and rests.

Proper Preface

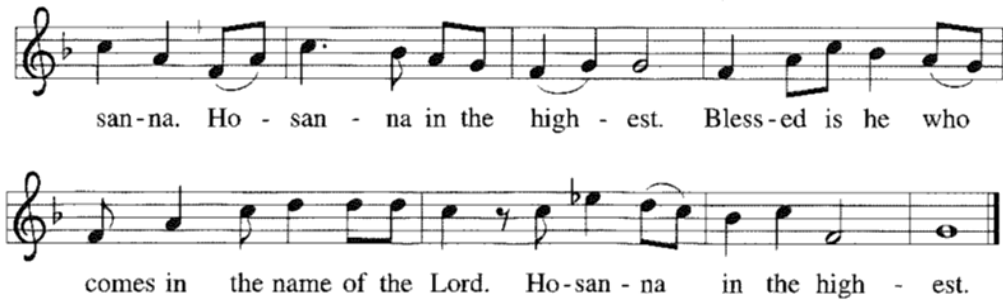
Sanctus

“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 -

Detailed description: This block contains two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff continues with: 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The notation consists of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes with slurs.



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.

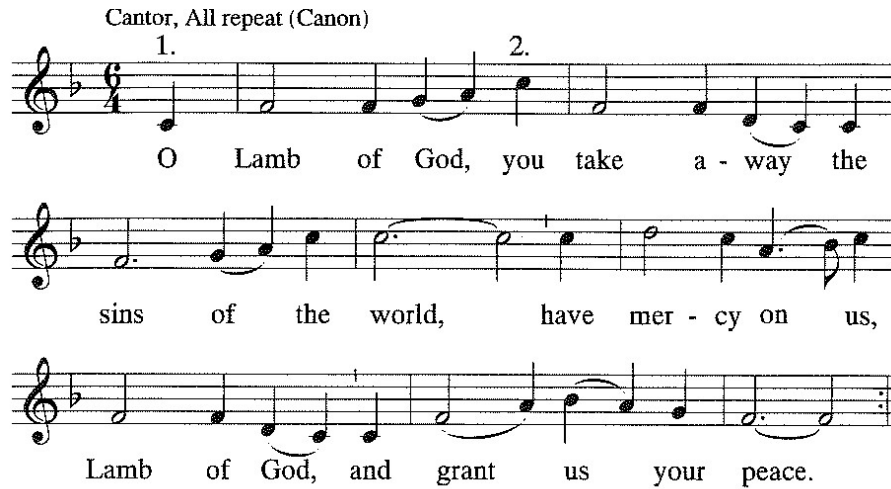
+ + +

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.

Chorale Interpretation on ‘Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies’”

RATISBON; Organ setting by David Cherwien

“Christ, Our Peace” from *All Creation Sings*

CHRIST, OUR PEACE

Setting for solo quartet, choir and piano by Marty Haugen

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that divide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one body in you.

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

“God, Whose Almighty Word” ELW 673

ITALIAN HYMN

1. God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the
gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.
2. Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight; health to the troubled mind, sight where illusions
blind; oh, now to humankind let there be light.

3. Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight; move on the water's face bearing the
lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place let there be light.
4. Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might: boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in
fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.; Music: Felice de Giardin, 1716-1796

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Lord God, Now Be Glorified” BWV 601

Johann Sebastian Bach

+ + +

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: Michael Thompson; crucifer: tbd; acolyte: Andrew Puky; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes, Eddie & Carol Goodall; communion assistants: Ruth Barrett, Chris Stevenson, Brooks Stevenson, Gretchen Payne, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Dianne Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir, Christian Souza, Delenn Rumbolo, cantors; Jack Richardson, Madeline Phillips, Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, solo quartet; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Lakeman; crucifer: Michael Lakeman; acolyte: Andrew Puky; lector: Cindy Little; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team D; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Lisa Barnette, Susan Lakeman, Gretchen Payne, Rebecca Huang; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Janice Miller

+ + +

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 in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Sehorn and Mr. & Mrs. Onree Crocker from Tom & Kay Sehorn, Matt & Ashley Frusti, and Bryan & Shelley Ashcroft.

"Soup"er Bowl of Caring February 12 Cheer for your favorite team by placing non-perishable/canned food items in your team's box located in the Gathering Place on 2/5 & 12. Our collection will be donated to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. May the best team win! Please support the youth in this caring ministry by helping those without enough to eat.

Offering Plates On Sunday February 12, the passing of offering plates will resume during worship services. We are thankful for the faithful giving of members and friends, helping us continue to reach out in mission!

Love Circle meets this Wednesday, 1/8 at 11:00 am in the Large Conference room. Please join us.

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.

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.

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 are in the Gathering Place. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket.

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

"This Little Light of Mine" ELW 677 This African-American spiritual reflects two passages of scripture: Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" and 2 Corinthians 4:6 "Let light shine out of darkness". At first glance the text reads as a call-and-response of an individual, slaves responding to a circuit rider's query, but is actually a jubilant call and response of the entire gathered fellowship. The tune **THIS JOY** was arranged by Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer (1935-2009), one of the foremost scholars in African-American gospel music.

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" ELW 553 This text by the great English hymn writer Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was first included in his *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1740) with the heading "A Morning Hymn". It was later modified, and included in his brother John Wesley's collection *Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists* (1780) where it was a prayer for the beginning of the Christian journey, with the start of the first stanza "O disclose thy lovely face". As is common in Charles writing, there are multiple scriptural references, in this case images of light. The tune **RATISBON**, first published in 1815, was composed by German organist Johann Werner (1777-1822). The tune is named for the German city of Ratisbon, now known as Regensburg.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

February 5, The Twenty-Six Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

The "Twenty-Six Martyrs of Japan" were crucified on this date for their Christian faith by the feudal government of Japan on Nishizaka, a hill in Nagasaki. Earlier in 1549, Jesuit missionaries, led by Francis Xavier, introduced Christianity to Japan. However, rivalry between Jesuits and other monastic orders led to tension with the feudal government. Coupled with the tensions of trade and diplomacy between Japan, Portugal and Spain, Christianity was outlawed in 1614, and expelled from Japan beginning in 1633 with a series of expulsion edicts. The martyrs included twenty Japanese Christians and six foreign Christians, both lay and ordained. They are remembered on this date in Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. The edict against Christianity was finally lifted until 1872, due to diplomatic pressure from the governments of western nations.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons





LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

February 5 & 12!
**Cheer for your team by placing
canned food items
in your team's box in the
Gathering Place.
May the best team win!**



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, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, Sam Temple, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Helen Howard, Henry & Sharon Vander Voort, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, Marilyn Creech, Lisa White and Gene & Marie Anne Daniels.

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

**Readings for 2/12/2023,
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

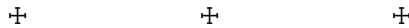
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
Happy are they who follow the teaching of the Lord. (Ps. 119:1)
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

Birthdays

2/6 Charlotte Dixon
 2/9 David Ferner
 2/12 Elizabeth Williams
 2/13 Jake Weckerle
 2/14 Rebecca Huang



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)



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

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