



ST. MARK'S

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MARCH 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The gospel for today is the story of the man born blind who was healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declared the man. With the gift of grace, Jesus opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. Faith allows us to see God's grace at work in our lives.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Be Thou My Vision"

Traditional Irish Tune

Setting for flute and piano by Susan W. Henry

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"Christ, the Life of All the Living" ELW 339

JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN

1. Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe;
through your suff'ring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.
thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
2. You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
3. Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you ever-more;
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,
for the last triumphant cry, praise you ever-more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Chatherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

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*

Micah Hein, 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. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Maddie Thompson, lector

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

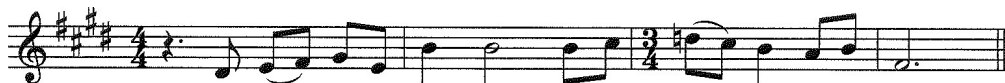
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

Madeline Phillips, Christian Souza, cantors

Psalm 23 (Luke Mayernik) Psalm refrain reproduced for *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



The Lord is my shep-herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Maddie Thompson, lector

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit

of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please be seated.

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

Anna Krentz Organ

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

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -
ful, slow to an-ger, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for

himself.”²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Believing is seeing”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW 779

NEW BRITAIN

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

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

Please stand.

Apostles’ Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

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

Creating God, by your Word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Help us protect the earth, and to live for the good of all creatures. Help us recycle and be responsible for our environment so we can live here for many more generations to come. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Help your church to always see the new creation your Spirit is making so that we might always praise you, helping others believe and see you alive in this world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. We pray for our national and global leaders. Help them continue to solve difficult problems and to work toward the realization of global peace for all people. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of Hosts, you fill us at your table with Jesus, the bread of life. Send us from this table with a hunger for justice, equipping us to feed the hungry and care for our neighbor in need in both this and distant communities. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. We pray for the sick and hope they regain fullness of health. Help doctors and caregivers care for the sick and injured so they can continue to spread the word of God and share your love with all. Bless and strengthen 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, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Christopher Shirley, Joan Love, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Jimmy Schwartz, John Simon, Dan Price, Roxi Tolbert, Susan Campbell, and Katie Yowell. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of time and eternity, with thanksgiving we remember the many faithful saints who shared their faith and love with us and so many others, so that believing, we might always see and witness to the in-breaking of your kingdom in this world. 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

Please be seated.

OFFERING *(Offerings for the mission of the church, and those in need, may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance or during the offering as gathered by the ushers.)*

Anthem

“Amazing Grace”

Based on the tune NEW BRITAIN

Setting for choir, flute and organ by David Ashley White

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

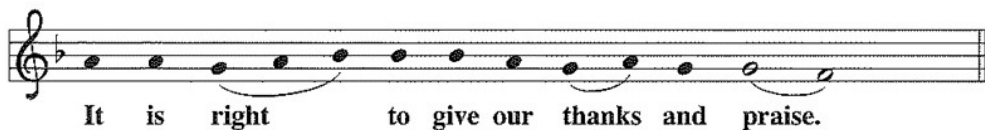
The Great Thanksgiving

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.



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 *Holy Communion Setting Three*

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

“Andante cantabile” (Reverie) for flute and piano Thomas Schudel

“Christ, Our Peace” from *All Creation Sings* CHRIST, OUR PEACE

Setting for solo vocal quartet, choir and piano by Mary 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. 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

“Be Thou My Vision” ELW 793

SLANE

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tow’r,
raise thou me heav’n-ward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text Irish, 8th cen.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; Music: Irish traditional

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.*Please be seated.***Postlude**

“Toccata on ‘Amazing Grace’”

Setting for organ by J. Christopher Pardini

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Maddie Thompson; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, A. J. Pridgen, Sean Fielding; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Flora Chance, Cliff Edahl, Chris & Brooks Stevenson, Lawanna Stoeckel; communion helper: Kay Finlon; nursery attendants: Shelley & Kendal Ferner; tabulators: Alan Harms, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir, Andrea Long, flute; Madeline Phillips, Christian Souza, Micah Hein, cantors; Delenn Rumbolo, Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, Christian Souza, solo vocal quartet; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; crucifer/acolyte: needed; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team B; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Kevin & Karen Feezor, Janice Miller, Lisa Barnette, Susan Lakeman; communion helper: Karen Covington; nursery attendants: Charlotte Dixon, Tara Thompson; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Meg Fielding

✠ ✠ ✠

From the pastor -

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Lent is the journey of forty days during which we are invited to renew ourselves in discipleship to Jesus, who calls us to self-denial and the way of the cross. Jesus' words about self-denial invite us to examine who we are in the most profound way. Who is this person I think I am? Who is this "self" I think I know well, yet remains elusive? The Lenten journey of forty days is an invitation to see and understand ourselves before Jesus' cross on the path that Jesus walks. Jesus lives raised in this world in service to others. To follow Jesus is not the work of a single day or even forty days. It is the discipleship of a lifetime. Lent provides an opportunity to sharpen our focus upon Jesus and his suffering love for humanity, so that freed from a desire for the things of this world, we might more fully live for Jesus in service to others. This Lent, led by Christ, may you rediscover his grace in our life together as St. Mark's serving others!

In the fellowship of Christ, Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Bach Recital: "Joyful Hearts": This Thursday, 3/23, 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

Lenten Schedule

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

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

Peace Lily and Sunburst donations Peace Lilies are \$14 each. Please order by April 2. Sunburst donations and Lenten Box donations accepted until Easter. Forms are in the Gathering Place.

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: We hope you are

remembering your Lenten box and the infants who will be using the purchased car seats with our donations. These are infants of refugee families being aided by REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. As you place your donation in the box, please remember these newest members of our community and the sacrifice our Lord made for us.

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

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 (call the church office) by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. We look forward to seeing many of you at Southern Pecan.

The Saint Mark's Book Study Group will meet on Thursday, March 23, at 10 am—both in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our study book this month is *Big Lies in a Small Town* by Diane Chamberlain. This is a story of two linked time periods in Edenton, NC. In 2018, a young woman's life has been derailed. Taking the fall for a crime she did not commit, her dream of a career in art is put on hold—until a mysterious visitor makes her an offer that will get her released from prison immediately. Her assignment: restore an old post office mural in a sleepy southern town. Even though she knows nothing about art restoration, she is desperate to be free, so she accepts. What she finds under the layers of grime is a painting that tells the story of madness, violence, and a conspiracy of smalltown secrets. In 1940, Anna Dale, an artist from New Jersey, wins a national contest to paint a mural for the post office in Edenton, North Carolina. Alone in the world and in great need of work, she accepts. But what she doesn't expect is to find herself immersed in a town where prejudices run deep, where people are hiding secrets behind closed doors, and where the

price of being different might just end in murder. There are many lies are to be uncovered in this small town. Please join us in reading this intriguing book and meet to discuss it on March 23. For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.

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.

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.

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!

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; Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".

Music Notes

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

"**Be Thou My Vision**" ELW 793 This anonymous Irish hymn dates to the eighth century. It was translated in 1905 by Mary E Byrne (1880-1931) and then versed by Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935) published in *Poem-Book of the Gael* (London, 1912). This text is a personal prayer for the vision of God throughout life, as we acknowledge God to be "my light...my treasure...my power...Ruler of all." This hymn was first joined to the Irish folk tune **SLANE** in the *Irish Church Hymnal* (Dublin, 1919), named for the hill where Saint Patrick is supposed to have defied the king by lighting the new fire at the Easter Vigil.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 19, Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Joseph was the spouse of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Though the gospels are silent about much of Joseph's life, we know he was a carpenter by trade. Luke's gospel full shows him acting in accordance to civil and religious law by returning to Bethlehem for the census and by presenting Jesus in the temple on the fortieth day after his birth. Matthew's gospel tells of Joseph's trust in God, who led him through visionary dreams. Joseph is mentioned again at the start of Jesus' ministry in Luke (4:22), "Is not this Joseph's son?" The veneration of Joseph seems to have originated in the East, where the apocryphal 'History of Joseph the Carpenter' enjoyed considerable popularity.

March 24, Óscar Arnulfo Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, martyr (1917-1980)

Romero is remembered for his advocacy on behalf of the poor in El Salvador. Though originally a social conservative, after being appointed Archbishop of San Salvador, he developed into an outspoken social activist on behalf of the poor and oppressed. He and other priests and church workers were considered traitors for their bold stand for justice, especially defending the rights of the poor. After several years of threats to his life, Romero was murdered while celebrating the eucharist in the chapel of Hospital of Divine Providence. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 24 as the "International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims" citing, in particular, the work of Archbishop Romero.

March 25 Annunciation of Our Lord

Nine months before Christmas, the church celebrates the Annunciation. In Luke the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the Son of God, and she responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord!" Ancient scholars believed that March 25 was also the day in which creation began and was the date for Jesus' death on the cross. Thus, from the sixth to eighth centuries, March 25 was observed as New Year's Day in much of Christian Europe.

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, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Christopher Shirley, Joan Love, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Jimmy Schwartz, John Simon, Dan Price, Roxi Tolbert, Susan Campbell, and Katie Yowell.

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

Readings for 3/26/2023,

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

I will wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Birthdays

3/22 Mindy Curley

3/23 Deanna Weckerle

3/24 James Conner

3/24 Taylor Abbasi

3/25 Keith Lindberg

3/25 Madden Weckerle



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

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Lester Ackerman,

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Sue Wadgyar, Parish Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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