



MARK'S

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



APRIL 2, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is the Servant King. The crowds who welcomed him shouting, "Hosanna!" also exemplify the paradox of our humanity: they turned on him, shouting, "Crucify him!" We desire to follow Christ, yet turn away from bearing his cross for others. Paul invites us writing, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." Jesus shows us a life of self-emptying humility and obedience. This is the way of the cross and resurrection, the way of self-emptying love.

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

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Tune ST. CHRISTOPHER by Frederick C. Maker

Setting for handbells by Cynthia Dobrinski

The congregation stands as the cross is carried into the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday Gospel procession.

The Palm Sunday Acclamation

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Palm Sunday Processional Gospel Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is

this?”¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing of the Palms

The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (ELW 344)

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son,
now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*
2. The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *Refrain*
3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain*
4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*
5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

The presiding minister concludes the procession.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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



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. Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Musical Interlude

“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”

Tune HERZLIEBSTER JESU by Johann Cruger
Setting for handbells by Lloyd Larson

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Flora Chance, lector

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 31:9-16

Christian Souza, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 31:5 (Mark Sedio) Psalm refrain reproduced for *Psalter for Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. ¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. ¹¹I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. ¹²I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. ¹³For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. ¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” ¹⁵My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Flora Chance, lector

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the

glory of God the Father.

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

Matthew 27:11-54

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 27th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” ²⁴So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And

when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. ⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“He emptied himself”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335

NEAR THE CROSS

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915; ©2006 ELCA; Augsburg Fortress Press

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there’s a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me. *Refrain*
4. Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*

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.*

Save your church, O God. Lead your church more deeply into the way of the cross and resurrection, the way of self-emptying love. Across the boundaries of language and culture, may your church share the same mind that was in Christ, serving and loving all your people. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save your creation, O God. Bless the seas, mountains, fields, and all of humanity who cultivate and harvest your creation. Grant humanity the wisdom and will to treat this world you have created with reverence so that all people might know and praise your abundant love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Grant to every nation wise and compassionate leaders who resist war and work for peace. Grant to all leaders the same mind that was in Christ that they might be self-emptying servants who serve their people with humility and wisdom. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save all who cry to you in need, O God. Be present with those who, like Christ, suffer or are accused unjustly. Bless the sick and the dying, and give strength to all who care for them. May your face shine upon your children: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Christopher Shirley, Joan Love, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Jamie Bates, Jimmy Schwartz, John Simon, Dan Price, Roxi Tolbert, Susan Campbell, and Katie Yowell. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us in your love, O God. Bless all ministries of self-emptying compassion in our church and community: St. Mark's Soup Kitchen, Room In The Inn, Kairos, Stephen Ministry, Loaves and Fishes, Refugee Support Services, Roof Above and so many more. Sustain them as they empty themselves for others in need. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us at the last, O God. Lead us by the light of Christ to learn from the saints who have emptied themselves in obedience to you and love for their neighbor. By the grace of Christ's cross, open the way to eternal life for all people: those who lived before us, those who will live after us, our enemies and

those whom we see as the Other. Welcome all people in Christ's name so that every tongue might confess and praise you. 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 "And Can It Be That I Should Gain" Dan Forrest
And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me? He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite in His grace; emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race; 'tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me. And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own.

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

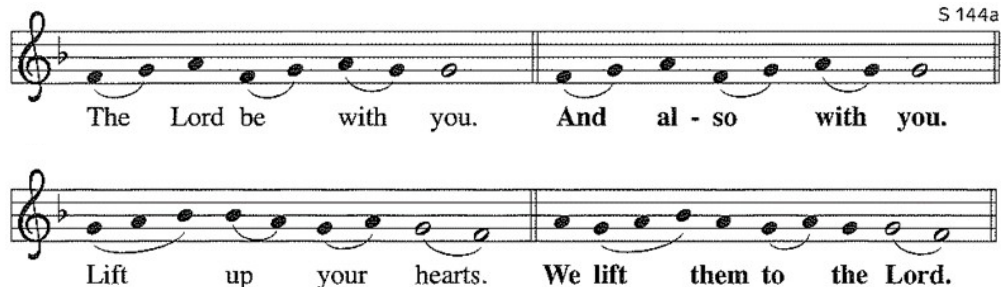
Offering Prayer

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 *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.

"Moderato" from *Variations on 'What Wondrous Love Is This'*

Southern Harmony Tune; Organ setting by Robert Lau

"Let This Mind Be in You"

John Purifoy

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ. Show His love and mercy to the world. Let us now unite our hearts in Spirit and follow the truth in Jesus Christ our Lord. God has highly exalted Him, ev'ry knee should bow before His name. Yet he took the form of a servant, let us now begin to do the same. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ. Show His love and mercy to the world. Let us now unite our hearts in Spirit and follow Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” ELW 347

GETHSEMANE

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
your Redeemer’s conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgement hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
3. Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.
4. Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay;
all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Music: Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Improvisation for Palm Sunday”

Alexandre Guilmant

✠

✠

✠

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 (prayers); crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: A.J. Pridgen, Nick Wartner, Jay Jacob, Ken Hazen, Rebecca Huang; communion helper: Kay Finlon; nursery attendants: Susan Ginns, Elsa Wartner; tabulators: Doug Milheim, Dianne Thomas; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir, St. Mark’s Handbells; Amy Woodall, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Mike Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; Bible bearer: Jonathan Lakeman; lector: Lowell Engelhard; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team C; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Ruth Barrett, Cliff Edahl, Gretchen Payne, A.J. Pridgen; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Janice Miller

✠

✠

✠

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

Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Phyllis and Franklin Baker by Barbara Baker

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, 7 pm, Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, 7 pm, Service of the Word

Easter Day, 8:30 am & 10:30, Holy Communion (Coffee & goodies served 9:30-10:15 am; Easter egg hunt 9:45am)

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.

LENTE BOX OFFERINGS: Your Lenten boxes are due any time this week. Make sure your name is on it as well as your envelope number if you have one. We would like to have all donations counted as soon after Easter as possible in order to purchase the infant car seats for the new little members of our community, whose parents are assisted by REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES

The St. Mark's Men's Group April meeting is being moved to Saturday, April 15 at 9:00 am due to the already busy Easter weekend schedule. We have a full agenda planned for the meeting and look forward to getting together.

St. Mark's Ethnic Restaurant Group on April 18 at 7PM will dine at **Miro Spanish Grill** in the Torrington Market (next to Earth Fare; 12239 N Community House Rd #102, Charlotte, NC 28277). Miro features Spanish tapas & full entrees served in a modern, upscale-casual setting. The salads, *croquettas*, *paellas*, *zarzuelas*, *steaks*, *chops*, and sea bass are fabulous. The *tres leches* makes a lovely crown for a memorable meal. All are welcome to join the fun at Miro! There is no language-barrier at this restaurant – the only problem is deciding which treat(s) to indulge in. Hint: tag-team a meal and share; that's where the tapas are really useful! **Please RSVP** for seating to Tom and Judy Tolbert (803-230-7073, tomtolbert@comporium.net) by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. We look forward to greeting you at Miro!

LIFESPAN: This worthy organization offers education, employment and enrichment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities. It began right here at St. Mark's 50 years ago. They are having a health and wellness drive and reached out to us to participate. There are collection baskets in the gathering place with a list of requested much needed health and wellness essentials attached to the poster, as well as "take home" lists on the table by the poster. The baskets will remain there until April 27th when picked up by LIFESPAN. Please show your love and compassion for these special adults as we fill the baskets with our gifts.

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 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

College Care Packs Please bring treats and sweets to send to our college students by April 16.

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

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

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" ELW 344 has established its place as the traditional Palm Sunday processional hymn. It is based on the accounts of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem found in Matthew 21, and Luke 19, as well as portions of Psalms 24 and 118. This hymn was written by Bishop Theodulph of Orleans (c.760-821), a leading French theologian and poet of his time. We believe he may have written this hymn while imprisoned in the year 818, falsely accused for conspiring against King Louis the Pious. This is one of our oldest Latin hymns, and in original form included thirty-eight two line stanzas plus the refrain! John Mason Neale (1818-1866) translated eight stanzas from Latin into English, first published in 1851. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* prints his first five stanzas plus refrain. Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), a German pastor, cantor and teacher, wrote the tune **VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN** ("Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee") that we associate with this hymn.

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" ELW 335 This gospel hymn by American hymn writer Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915) was first published in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School* (New York, 1869). Even though she was blind by the time she was six weeks old, her lack of sight seemed to help her focus more fully on the spiritual aspects of life. This hymn gives us great insight into the power of the cross, especially from someone who was sightless: "Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me." Fanny pictures in her mind's eye the vision of Christ dying on the cross. The symbol of light is found in stanza two, with stanza four concluding with the commitment to watch and wait, hope and trust, forever. William H. Doane (1832-1915) wrote the tune **NEAR THE CROSS** and was a frequent collaborator with Fanny in providing tunes for her texts.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

April 4, Benedict the African, confessor, (1526-1589)

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict first lived as a hermit and labored as a plowman after he was freed. When the bishop of Rome ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a religious community, Benedict joined the Franciscans, where he served as a cook. Although he was illiterate, his fame as a confessor brought many visitors to the humble and holy cook, and he was eventually named superior of the community. A patron saint of African Americans, Benedict is remembered for his patience and understanding when confronted with racial prejudice.

April 6, Albrecht Dürer, (1471-1528); Matthias Grünewald, (c.1470-1529); Lucas Cranach, (c.1472-1553), artists

These great German artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

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, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Christopher Shirley, Joan Love, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, 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 4/9/2023,

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

Birthdays

4/4 Linda Wyatt

4/6 William Jacob

4/8 Chris Parrish

4/8 Lou Feola



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 Wadgyar, 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