



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

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APRIL 30, 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Partita on 'I Know That My Redeemer Lives'" Op. 56

Tune by John Hatton; Organ settings by Charles Callahan

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" ELW 619 stanzas 1-4 & 8

DUKE STREET

1. I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!
2. He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.
3. He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.
4. He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.
8. He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.; Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Please be seated.

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Confession.

Thanksgiving for Baptism (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,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

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.

Please stand as able.

Kyrie

Holy Communion Setting Three, pg. 138-139

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise "This Is the Feast of Victory" *Holy Communion Setting Three*

ELW pg. 140-141; Richard Hillert

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*
2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain*
3. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*
4. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

Kay Finlon, lector

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

Madeline Phillips, Christian Souza, cantors

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Music by Luke Mayernik, Copyright © 2017 Birmamwood Publications, A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.



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 1 Peter 2:19-25

Kay Finlon, lector

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²²⁴He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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 One*

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

The Holy Gospel John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“God’s Familiar Voice”

The Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” ELW 789

BRADBURY

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847t. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1. Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
2. We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.

3. You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be:
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
4. Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

The Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

(Lisa Barnette, prayer assistant)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, you gather and lead your flock to green pastures and still waters. Guide your church as it shepherds and walks with others through life's dark valleys. Bless your church to welcome even

enemies to the table your Son prepares for all people so that together we may follow you all the days of our life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you entrusted us with the care of the oceans, the land and skies and all that lives in the vast universe you created. Yet, we have not been as responsible for what was required of us and the results have led to devastating storms, coastal and river flooding, critical ice melt and large-spread droughts due to climate change. Lord, we need your help with greater awareness and changing the hearts of individuals, corporations and policy makers to initiate urgent actions that will help the communities and species that are suffering the most from our inaction evidenced by the devastating changes. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead and guide even in the midst of sin, evil and sickness unto death. Anoint and heal all who suffer in any way, and bless all who care for the sick and the dying. We ask your healing and strength for: 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, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Christopher Shirley, Joan Love, Jane Thompson, Jamie Bates, Jimmy Schwartz, John Simon, Dan Price, Roxi Tolbert, Katie Yowell, Shirley Larson, Ingrid Keiris, Martha Stackel, Bishop Tim Smith, Sam Temple, and Joe Barrett. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Protecting Lord, you have always opened your loving heart to the children. For their safety, our future depends on advocacy for the protection of all innocent children since they are so vulnerable to the evil violence that exists in this world. From those in the midst of war, victims of senseless gun violence, victims of physical and mental abuse in its many forms, with your help we need to be the voices that can truly support and affect change through special programs and laws for their protection. Each child of God is special in the eyes of Jesus. For us to belong to his kingdom, we are also to come to him as children. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you call your sheep by name and they know your voice. You lead them through the valley of death to dwell in your house forever. Lead us always with your voice, into your resurrection life of service for others and into eternal life in your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Discerning Lord and Shepherd, you were with the apostles as they transitioned their lives before being empowered by the Holy Spirit. They were to continue to gather believers in Jesus's name and to remain faithful to his sacraments and wonders and signs. Lord, as we begin a next chapter to discern the vision and needs of St. Mark's we look for your guidance during this process. Be present with us as we come together in prayer and discussion so we can grow and strengthen our church family to support the missions that glorify your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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 are gathered by the ushers.)

Anthem

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Harry Rowe Shelley

Choir with Delenn Rumbolo, soprano; Christian Souza, baritone

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with Thee, dear Lord, beside me; Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me. Thou spread'st a table in my sight, Thy unction grace bestoweth, and O, the transport of delight with which my cup o'er-floweth. And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within thy house forever! Amen.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” ELW 392

HYFRYDOL

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

Holy Communion

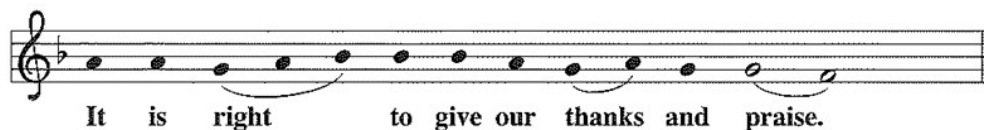
The Great Thanksgiving

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*

Musical notation for the Sanctus. The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are: "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." The notation includes a measure rest and a fermata over the final note.

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 know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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 wafer and wine in a small cup or "Communion Kit." 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.

"Partita on 'Alleluia! Sing to Jesus'" Op. 42

Andante-Adagio; Charles Callahan

"Christ, Our Peace" from *All Creation Sings*

Marty Haugen
Choir and solo vocal quartet

*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. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

From the pastor -

"If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

Blessed Eastertide greetings! The joy we experience at Easter is profound because the risen Christ is alive and dwells in every heart opening itself to him. This means we are also raised with Christ to live into his resurrection as a reality today and every day. Paul certainly experienced this, encouraging the church at Colossae to know that we are freed to seek and live for "the things that are above" where Christ is. Yet we also live with the things that are "below" and this is precisely where Christ lived and died so that he might raise us with him to know God's glory in the midst of suffering. Christ raised at Easter frees us, moving us from death to life. May you be freed and lifted every day to seek the things that are above. In doing so, you will be able to lift others with strength you never knew you had.

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 to the Glory of God and in Honor of the Staff of St Mark's.

Fellowship Luncheon Today: Please stay for lunch today and a brief session with Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor CeCee Mills, about beginning the process to call an additional Rostered Minister. Pastor CeCee has promised that this important session will last about an hour. Please join us.

Concert Today! The Queen City Ringers Spring Concert at 5 pm. "Reconciliation: Tune my Heart to Ring" Please join us.

St. Mark's Men's Group This Saturday, May 6, at 9 AM, we will celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the Men's Group revival with a potluck breakfast. Please sign up and indicate what you would like to bring on SignUp-Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-stmarks1> or call the church office to have your name and item added.

Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte is sponsoring a 5K Race benefitting a partner, the Community Kitchen Program, at McAlpine Park on Saturday, May 27, 2023. The CKP offers a free 10-week training to refugees that enables them to be Servesafe-certified employees in the restaurant industry while aiding in learning the English language; and, in the process, provides meals to homeless individuals, senior citizens, first responders, youth programs, and others. They are asking for support in the way of donations and participating runners for the 5K Race. May 5 is the deadline for registering for the event. Please contact Diane Thornton (please call the church office) for more information and registration assistance. Flyers are in the Gathering Place.

REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES is teaching the skill of knitting to our refugee neighbors. If you have any surplus yarn or yarn you no longer need, please donate it to this outreach. They would especially appreciate kelly green for a specific project, but will definitely welcome ALL colors for general use.

Theology on Tap will be held May 11 at 7pm at The Vaulted Oak Brewery, 3726 Monroe Rd. All are welcome.

St. Mark's Ethnic Restaurant Group on May 16, 2023 at **7:00 PM** will dine at **La Shish Kabob**. This restaurant is located at 3117 N Sharon Amity Road, 28205 (in a strip mall, 300 feet north from the intersection with Albemarle Road, on the west (uptown) side of North Sharon Amity Road). Slow down, or you may miss your turn! La Shish Kabob serves hot and cold Near Eastern entrees, sides, and desserts in a casual deli-type space. The salads and soups and specialty dishes all are prepared under Izzat Freitekh's careful supervision from his family's recipes. The selections include dishes from gyros and kabobs to shawarmas and slowly simmered lamb and chicken served with mountains of moulikhla (yellow) rice. Izzat's Lebanese grandmother would be proud of how some of her recipes are served at La Shish Kabob! All are welcome to join the fun at La Shish Kabob! 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 baba-ghannouj, hommos, falafel, kibbeh, kabob, tabouli, chicken salad, or even double lamb shanks and rice! And, don't forget to save room for any (or all) of the fresh pastries. **RSVP** for seating to Tom and Judy Tolbert (please call the church office) by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. We look forward to greeting you at La Shish Kabob!

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. Please join us as you are able. On Sunday, May 7, we will begin a study of Daniel in the Lion's Den.

“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/>).

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.

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.

REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES will be receiving infant car seats purchased with our Lenten donations -- \$677.27 boxes, \$945.00 alternative gifts and memorials, \$100 late donations last year, for a total of \$1,722.27. Thank you for your generosity and compassion for the newest little members of our community.

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

If the alarm goes off when you are in the building, leave and shut the door by the choir room, swipe your key card to silence the alarm.

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

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" ELW 619 This hymn was penned by Samuel Medley (1738-1799) a former British sailor, converted by reading a sermon of Isaac Watts, and then served as a Baptist minister. The heart of his message is inspired by a passage from Job 19:25 "For I know that my Redeemer lives." We usually sing only stanzas one through four, and eight, and please note how many times we sing the phrase "He Lives": seventeen times in just these five stanzas. The tune **DUKE STREET** was composed by Englishman John W. Hatton (1710-1793), born in Warrington, England, and who lived on Duke Street in St. Helen's in the township of Windle, Lancaster (or Lancashire).

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" ELW 789 gives us images for both Psalm 23 and the parable of the good shepherd in John 10. This hymn first appeared in the collection *Hymns for the Young* (London, 1836) compiled by Dorothy Thrupp (1779-1847), but we don't know for certain she is the author, as she wrote anonymously and under multiple pseudonyms. William Bradbury (1816-1868) wrote the tune **BRADBURY** for Thrupp's hymn, and it was published in his Sunday school book entitled *Oriola* (1859).

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

May 1, Philip and James, Apostles

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, who after following Jesus invited Nathanael to "come and see." According to tradition, Philip preached in Asia Minor and died as a martyr in Phrygia. James, the son of Alphaeus, is called "the Less" (meaning "short" or "younger") to distinguish him from another apostle named James, commemorated July 25. Philip and James are commemorated together because the remains of these two saints were placed in the church of the Apostles in Rome on this day in 561.

May 2, Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria (296-373)

Athanasius attended the council of Nicea in 325 as a deacon and secretary of the Bishop of Alexandria. Athanasius defended the full divinity of Christ against the Arian heresy held by emperors, magistrates, and other theologians. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his defense of the divinity of Christ. The Athanasian Creed (named for him) is recognized by the Lutheran Church, along with the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. Athanasius' Easter Letter of 367 is the oldest surviving record listing the 27 canonical books of the New Testament. This is significant, because it demonstrates that the canon of the New Testament was already established prior to 367 through a process of tradition rather than by the decree of a council.

May 4, Monica, mother of Augustine (322-387)

Monica was married to a Roman named Patricius, who was a government official in Thagaste (in present day Algeria). She rejoiced when both her husband and his mother became Christian. Monica is best known as the mother of the theologian, Augustine. Monica became a disciple of Ambrose, bishop of Milan, and after resisting Christianity for seventeen years, her son Augustine was baptized by Ambrose on Easter, 387. Almost everything we know about Monica comes from Augustine's *Confessions*, his autobiography. She died far from home, but said to her son, "Do not fret because I am buried far from our home in Africa. Nothing is far from God, and I have no fear that God will not know where to find me, when Christ comes to raise me to life at the end of the world." Her dying wish was that her son remember her at the altar of the Lord, wherever he was.

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, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Christopher Shirley, Joan Love, Jane Thompson, Jamie Bates, Jimmy Schwartz, John Simon, Dan Price, Roxi Tolbert, Katie Yowell, Shirley Larson, Ingrid Keiris, Martha Stackel, Bishop Tim Smith, Sam Temple, and Joe Barrett.

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

Readings for 5/7/2023,

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Birthdays

4/30 Sophie Schwartz

4/30 Ainsley Stevenson

4/30 Ingrid Keiris

5/1 Randall Darnell

5/1 Alexandra Jacob

5/1 Melissa Smith

5/2 Lauren Dunlap

5/2 Helen Holzinger

5/3 Bill Schwartz

5/3 Karsen Ferner

5/4 Steve McCurry



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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