



## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



JANUARY 14, 2024

### THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All the baptized have a calling and vocation. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also each of us. God begins to call us in our youth, like Samuel, and God continues to call us throughout our lives. Jesus called Nathanael, saying, "Follow me." Nathanael initially dismissed Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. Yet where we come from doesn't determine who we are; rather, it is who we follow that gives our lives meaning and direction. Meeting Jesus changed Nathanael's life causing him to confess Christ as the Son of God and King of Israel.*

## GATHERING

***Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.***

### Prelude

"Improvisations on 'Songs of Thankfulness and Praise'"

Tune SALZBURG by Jakob Hintze

Settings for organ by Malcolm Archer and Andrew Fletcher

*Please stand as able.*

### Processional Hymn

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" ELW 310

SALZBURG

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
2. Manifest at Jordan's stream, prophet, priest, and king supreme;  
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
3. Manifest in making whole weakened body, fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
4. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;  
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

*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, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,

**We pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant. Renew your creation.**

**Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken:

The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

**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

“O Lord, Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting Eleven*

Christian Souza, cantor



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. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

WORD

**First Reading**

**1 Samuel 3:1-20**

Kay Finlon, lector

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. <sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.” <sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” <sup>17</sup>Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.” <sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

Jack Richardson, Delenn Rumbolo , cantors

Psalm 139:1 (Hal Hopson) Psalm refrain reproduced from Psalter for Worship Year B © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

You have searched me out and known me.

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, you have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. <sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. <sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. <sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. <sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

**Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

Kay Finlon, lector

<sup>12</sup>'All things are lawful for me', but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful for me', but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food', and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, 'The two shall be one flesh.' <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as able.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go” from *ACS Holy Communion Setting Twelve*

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

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

*Repeat alleluia*

**The Holy Gospel**

**John 1:43-51**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I

saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’<sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’<sup>50</sup> Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’<sup>51</sup> And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

*Please be seated.*

### **Sermon**

“Follow Me”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

### **Hymn of the Day** “Come and See” ACS 976 sing two times, from *All Creation Sings*

*COME AND SEE*

Text & Music: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39; T&M © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

What are you look - ing for? Come,  
see, come and see. What are you  
look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

### **The Apostles’ Creed**

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

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

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

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

*The service continues with the Prayers.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

(Melissa Smith, prayer assistant)

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Lord God, help us to hear the call of your Son when he asks us to listen and to follow him. Help us to live in Christ's image so that we continue to see greater things through Him. Hear us, O God

**Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, we give you thanks for the goodness of your creation. Help us to be advocates and voices for the sustaining of habitats and wilderness areas, and strengthen us to respond with compassion for all who are suffering and recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of life, we pray for food, shelter, health, and safety for our less fortunate neighbors. May these gifts help them glorify you in body and spirit so that they always know they are loved by you. We pray for strength and hope for: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Oakley Coburn, Arlene Fielding, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Shirley Larson, Ingrid Keiris, Martha Stackel, Tina Wiland, Ben Watson, Louisa Coburn, Mindy Curley, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Sarah Lindberg, Marilyn Denison, Eileen Dunlap, Jim Middleswarth, Christopher Shirley, Pat & Gary Ragsdale, Tanner Grant, Michael Frye, Ken Foust, Gene Ellington, Wayne Lineberger, Laura Elliott, and Norma Alexander. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, you search and know the hearts of all who lead. Grant to the leaders of this nation and those around the world, a vision of justice and unity so that all people might see and know their shared humanity through peace and reconciliation. Bring wars and conflicts around the world to an end and usher in an era of mutual cooperation among all nations and people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ever-patient Lord, help us to understand your almighty power and give us strength to trust in you through the power of prayer that we might live each day sharing your power with others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we give you thanks for all the saints who have labored for peace and justice among all people, especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whom we commemorate tomorrow. In all things, help us to hear Jesus' call to follow him and love one another. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**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**

“How Bright Appears the Morning Star”

Johann Kuhnau

Setting for choir and organ by John Leavitt

*How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy beaming from afar; the host of heav'n rejoices; O Righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod! You Son of Man and Son of God! We, too, will lift our voices; Jesus, Jesus, holy, holy, yet most lowly, draw Thou near us; Great Emmanuel, come and hear us. Please stand as able. Rejoice, you heav'ns; and earth, reply; with praise, all people fill the sky, for this His Incarnation. Incarnate God, put forth Your pow'r, ride on, ride on, great Conqueror, till all know Your salvation. Amen, amen! Alleluia, alleluia! Praise be given evermore, by earth and heaven.*

**Offertory**

*(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)*

“We Are Called” ELW 720

WE ARE CALLED

1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

*Refrain:* We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Text & Music: David Haas, b. 1957 T&M © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

**Holy Communion**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Holy Communion Setting Four*

S 152

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 *All Creation Sings, Holy Communion Setting Twelve*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Ho - san - na, 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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
 Come and see.

*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*

wafers 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 Four*

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.

### “IO Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Johann Christoph Bach; Tune WIE SCHON LEUCHTET by Philipp Nicolai

### “You Call Us, Lord”

Tune CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Setting for cantors, choir and piano by Carol Browning

1. You call us, Lord, to hear your Word, in gratitude to humbly pray, accept your gift of grace assured, and lift our hearts to sing your praise. Refrain: In this place of wood and stone, of hungry hearts, of bread and cup, make us, your church, a house and home built on your abiding love. 2. You call us, Lord, to seek your will, and follow in your narrow way, become a sign of life fulfilled, and grow in love and faith each day. Refrain. 3. You call us, Lord, to take and share this meal of love, in wine and bread; in cross and sign, in heartfelt prayer, to journey on as we are led. Refrain. 4. You call us, Lord, to unity, to be disciples of your Son, so bless us now, your family, O Holy Spirit, make us one. Refrain.

Please stand as able.

## Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body.

Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

SENDING

## SENDING BLESSING

God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord” ELW 574

HERE I AM, LORD

1. “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”

*Refrain:* Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?” *Refrain*

3. “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?” *Refrain*

Text & Music: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946, © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## Postlude

“Toccata” from Partita on *Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*”

Organ setting by Michael Burkhardt

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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Eileen Dunlap, Mary Lou Hopp; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Flora Chance, Nick Wartner, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Dianne Thomas, Diane Miller; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir; Delenn Rumbolo, Jack Richardson, Christian Souza, Amy Woodall, Nick Matherly, Madeline Phillips, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Maddie Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Meg

Fielding; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team C; greeters: Tom & Kay Sehorn; communion assistants: Karen & Karen Feezor, Rebecca Huang, Susan Lakeman, A.J. Pridgen; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Dawn Schwartz, Charles Lakeman



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## *Parish News*

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### **From the pastor -**

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

The season of Epiphany is four to nine weeks (depending on the date of Easter), lasting from the Feast of Epiphany (January 6) through the day before Ash Wednesday (this year, February 14). The season of Epiphany as a whole focuses upon the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ. At Epiphany, Jesus' birth is announced through the Magi to the nations, and the season continues to witness to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, his baptism, the calling of his disciples, and his proclamation of the good news. The focus of this season is ever outward toward the world and all nations, hinting at the scope of our proclamation and work as modern-day Christians. On the final Sunday of this season, The Transfiguration (February 11), we see the fullness of Christ's divinity revealed in his humanity, again hinting at the gift of his Spirit which dwells in us. Epiphany is a season in which we respond in faith and service to Jesus Christ, as his contemporary day disciples and messengers, always moving ever outward with faith active in love.

In the grace and peace of Christ,  
Pastor Tim McKenzie  
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

## *Coming Up at St. Mark's*

### **Worship and Congregational Life**

**Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** The church office will be closed Monday 1/15, in recognition of the federal and state holiday commemorating the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King is also commemorated on the Lutheran liturgical calendar on 1/15.

**Save the Date!** The 2024 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 1/28/2024 following the 10:30 service. The printed report is available in the Gathering Place. A light lunch will be served after the meeting. Please sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-47165958-annual> or call the office.

**Save the Date!** "Souper Bowl of Caring" will culminate on Sunday 2/11. Please donate non-perishable food items to tackle hunger in our community.

**REMINDER:** To our able bodied members please park across Queens Rd in our church parking lot or on the side of the church along Edgehill Rd and come in side door saving the parking lot by the church for less able bodied members. Thank you.

**ROOM in the INN!** Volunteers are needed to supply DINNERS, BREAKFASTS and bag LUNCHES. Especially needed will be NIGHT SITTERS and VAN DRIVERS. Look for more information and a signup poster in the gathering place. Another way to help is to donate BEDTIME SNACKS for our guests such as lunch size bags of pretzels, goldfish, chips; granola bars (preferably without nuts); small bags of fruit snacks. Reminder - We DON'T NEED soap, shampoo or conditioner as we have dispensers in the showers. We CANNOT OFFER mouthwash as ordered by Roof Above. A collection basket is in the hall across from the restrooms. We thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach to the homeless in our community.

**2024 Offering Envelopes** are in the Gathering Space. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket.

**Thinking of joining St. Mark's?** Please see Pastor Tim to set up a time to talk. All people are welcome at St. Mark's!

**The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays.** In January we begin "Other Scriptures". We'll discuss the lost texts of other early Christians based on Bart D. Ehrman's writings. Dr. Ehrman is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor at UNC Chapel Hill. Please join us as you are able in the Large Conference Room.

**Online worship** continues to be streamed every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

**Rehearsals!** Wednesdays at 6 pm Handbells and 7 pm Choir. Come play and sing!

**The Ethnic Restaurant Group** will dine at Wan Fu Chinese Restaurant on January 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Wan Fu presents a lovely environment in which to enjoy their carefully crafted cuisine, starting with the exterior of the building (which resembles a Chinese temple) and definitely including the carved wood paneling inside the restaurant. This restaurant has weathered the economic storms of many years and produces beautifully presented dishes which range from simple and easily accessible to highly spiced and complex flavors. Wan Fu is located at 10719 Kettering Dr, Charlotte, NC 28226 (on the east side of Pineville, just north of NC-51 – Pineville-Matthews Road). Our group always enjoys visits at Wan Fu! Contact Tom & Judy Tolbert for seating by noon on Sunday, January 14.

**Theology on Tap** Thursday, January 18 at 7 pm at Edge City, 6209 Old Post Rd, Charlotte. Everyone is welcome!

**St. Mark's Book Group** will meet on January 25, 2024, in the large conference room at 10 am and via Zoom. All are invited to participate. Our study this month is *Bloomsbury Girls* by Natalie Jenner. This historical novel is set in post-WWII London. Three women work in an old-fashioned bookstore run by men. There are 51 store rules, and the women break all of them. Having come through the war with all its restrictions, rules, and challenges, they are ready for a change. This delightful book shows

how the women work to overcome adversity while battling misogyny and preconceived judgments. For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.

**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**

**Nursery:** A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

### **Youth Classes**

Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play has been temporarily paused.

**Confirmation Class** meets every Sunday at 9:30.

### **Stewardship 2024**

Sharing our gifts is important to St. Mark's ongoing mission. A pledge is a prayerful commitment to giving in response to God's grace. A pledge may be offered at any time, but pledges help a congregation establish a responsible budget for the coming year. Please consider making a financial pledge to St. Mark's. Brochures are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. 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.



**2024 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 & FISHES** The baker's rack is a permanent collection location for **NON-BREAKABLE NON-PERISHABLE** food. And remember, all families need condiments, salt & pepper and sugar, along with basic food.

**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 in the Fellowship Hall: Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m.; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m.; in Room 210: Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".

## Music Notes

**"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"** ELW 310 This hymn received its first publication in 1862 in the journal *The Holy Year* by Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885). "Epiphany" means "manifestation" of Christ to the world, and the author used "manifest" twelve times to describe Christ's birth, baptism, appearance at the wedding feast of Cana, healing the sick, and his powers over evil. Thus this hymn becomes not only praise to God, but a time to learn more about Epiphany and about Christ himself. The tune **SALZBURG** is a late-seventeenth century German tune, probably written by Jakob Hintze (1622-1702), and the harmonization in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship is based on a setting by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

**"Here I Am, Lord"** ELW 574 Daniel Laurent Schutte (b. 1947), an American Jesuit priest, and composer of Catholic liturgical music, wrote this hymn for commitment and sending forth of Christ's disciples for a service of ordination in 1979. It is based on Isaiah 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" God's mission and purpose is clearly stated, with each stanza telling the needs of the people and then the care God will provide. This hymn comes to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* from *With One Voice* (1995). Schutte composed the tune **HERE I AM, LORD**. He has written over 150 hymns and Mass settings .

**"Come and See"** ACS 976 This hymn comes to us from *All Creation Sings* by American composer and musician Robert Hobby (b. 1962). He wrote this hymn on a visit to England, while participating in a one-week conference seeking to reverse declining trends in the witness/ministry of Christianity. Inspired by John 1:35-37. Hobby writes: "I had considered adding additional verses from other parts of scripture...but simply sticking to the question and answer keeps it general enough for each person gathered in worship to hear the invitation in the context of their own life issues." The tune **COME AND SEE** was written by Hobby for this hymn text

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

### **January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer of society, martyr, (1929-1968)**

Martin Luther King, Jr. is remembered as an American prophet of justice among peoples and nations, a Christian whose faith undergirded his advocacy of vigorous yet nonviolent action for racial equality. A pastor of churches in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, his witness was taken to the streets in other such places as Birmingham, Alabama, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. Dr. King preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1964, he was murdered on April 4, 1968 in Memphis. Though most commemorations are held on the date of the person's death, many churches hold commemorations near Dr. King's birth date on January 15, in conjunction with the American civil holiday honoring him.

### **January 17, Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church (251-356)**

Anthony was born in Qemen-al-Arous, Upper Egypt, and was one of the earliest Egyptian desert fathers. Born to Christian parents from whom he inherited a large estate, he took personally Jesus' message to sell everything, give to the poor, and follow Christ. After making arrangement to provide for the care of his sister, he gave away his inheritance and became a hermit. Later, he became the head of a group of monks that lived in community, devoting themselves to communal prayer, worship and manual labor, distributing their earned income as alms. Anthony and his monks also preached and counseled those who sought them out. Anthony and the desert fathers are a reminder of the call for Christians to also be able to renounce the world in service to Christ. The writings of the Desert Fathers are available from several publishers.

### **January 18, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25)**

Begun in 1908, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance framed by two commemorations, the Confession of Peter (Jan. 18) and the Conversion of Paul (Jan. 25). Both apostles are remembered together on June 29, but these two commemorations give us an opportunity to focus on key events in each of their lives. Today we remember that Peter was led by God's grace to acknowledge Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). This confession is the common confession that unites us with Peter and with all Christians of every time and place.

### **January 19, Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr (unknown-1156)**

Henry, an Englishman, became bishop of Uppsala, Sweden in 1152, and traveled to Finland with the King of Sweden to organize the church in Finland. He was murdered in Finland by a man he had rebuked and who was disciplined by the church. Henry is honored in the churches of both Finland and Sweden.

*Adapted from Sundays and Seasons*

## St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Oakley Coburn, Arlene Fielding, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Shirley Larson, Ingrid Keiris, Martha Stackel, Tina Wiland, Ben Watson, Louisa Coburn, Mindy Curley, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Nathaniel Coburn, Sarah Lindberg, Marilyn Denison, Eileen Dunlap, Jim Middleswarth, Christopher Shirley, Pat & Gary Ragsdale, Tanner Grant, Michael Frye, Ken Foust, Gene Ellington, Wayne Lineberger, Laura Elliot, and Norma Alexander.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests ([pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

### Readings for 1/21/2024

#### Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

*God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)*

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

### Birthdays

1/14 Michael Huang

1/15 Jacob Wenzel

1/16 Melissa Lavoy

1/18 Jane Thompson

1/19 Genna Hurley

1/20 Tara Thompson



*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 ([pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))*



## *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**

[pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Lester Ackerman,**

**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**

[les@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:les@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**

[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator**

[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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