



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



JANUARY 21, 2024

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

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of Jesus' call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptism and response, following Christ on our journey in this world. In Mark's gospel, Jesus begins his ministry proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance immediately after John the Baptist has been arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing John was later martyred, we see the cost of discipleship at the very outset. Yet Jesus' first disciples answer his call, leaving all they have known and worked for to follow Jesus by becoming fishers of people.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Sheep May Safely Graze" from *Cantata 208*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"I Love to Tell the Story" ELW 661

HANKEY

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain*
3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911; Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

Please be seated.

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*

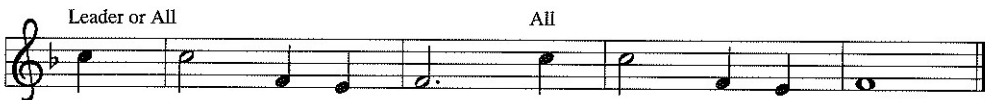
Christian Souza, cantor



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. Almighty God, by grace alone you call and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Prayer of Blessing and Godspeed for William Laird Jacob

The pastor invites William Jacob to come forward, and to share about his upcoming military service.

The pastor continues,

With thankfulness to God, Will's parents share a greeting with the congregation:

“Will was baptized in our Church on November 12, 2000. Our Church has provided love and education to Will at every step of his life including Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Youth Mission trips, including trips to Puerto Rico, West Virginia, Tennessee and Philadelphia. These trips provided lifelong memories for Will and friendships with fellow youth members that he cherishes to this day. St. Mark's was and is a very important part of Will's life and personal development.”

The pastor continues,

Will, in Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his Church, and this congregation has rejoiced as you have grown in faith. In this community of faith you have heard God's Word and been nourished in Holy Communion. God has blessed you in this fellowship, and we have been blessed by God through you. As you prepare for military service to this nation, we encourage you to rely upon God's gifts in your new work, and to know that we remember you in our prayers.

Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for William Laird Jacob and for our life together in this congregation and community of faith, St. Mark's Lutheran Church. As Will has been a blessing to us, so now we send him forth to be a blessing to others; protect him from all harm, and strengthen him in the gifts with which you have created him, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Meg Fielding, lector

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

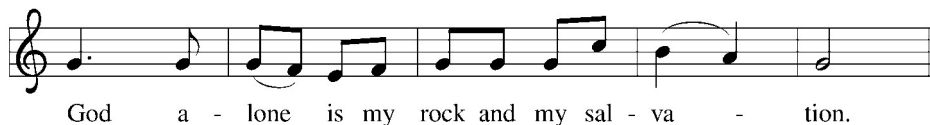
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 62:5-12

Amy Woodall, Christian Souza, cantors

Psalm 62:6 (Robert Hobby) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress



⁵For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. ⁶He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. ⁸Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah* ⁹Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. ¹⁰Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. ¹¹Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, ¹²and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Meg Fielding, lector

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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.

Repeat alleluia

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

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1: 14-20

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“*Changing your mind about all things*”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult” ELW 696

GALILEE

Text : Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

- 1-. Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, “Christian, follow me”:
2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus’ sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store,
From each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian, love me more.”
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”
5. Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

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

(Maddie Thompson, 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, in Jesus, time is constantly fulfilled and your kingdom is at hand; grant to your church and its diverse people, hearts filled with the grace and faith of repentance that over and over in our lives we might leave everything and follow him. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, as the effects of climate change get more severe and closer to home, we ask that you grant support to our un-housed neighbors in this cold winter. Give them persistence, and grant to us the grace to help all of your children. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord God, you and your kingdom are our greatest possession. Help us see that the shortness of our lives is set within the eternity of your time, and help us always to respond unreservedly to your call, living confidently in this world with love for you and others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, as more and more cases of illness occur in our community, we ask that you give those affected the strength they need to recover. Give us spirit and insight into how to best support one another. 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.

God of time and eternity, we offer thanks for the saints who have trusted in and followed you no matter where life has taken them; grant to us such firmness of faith that we also might be drawn upward into your kingdom where you repay all according to their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace, in this time of war and conflict we ask that you grant us the wisdom to see beyond violence and instead act with compassion. May you be with the victims of tragedy and comfort them through times of struggle. Grant courage to leaders who can put an end to suffering. 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

“Rise, Shine, You People!” ELW 665

WOJITKIEWIECZ

Setting for choir and organ by Dale Woods

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded. See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven. Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate your joy, now come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory. Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation His new creation. Rise and shine!

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” ELW 815

HOUSTON

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Music: Kathleen Thomerson; T & M: 1970, 1975 Celebration

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.

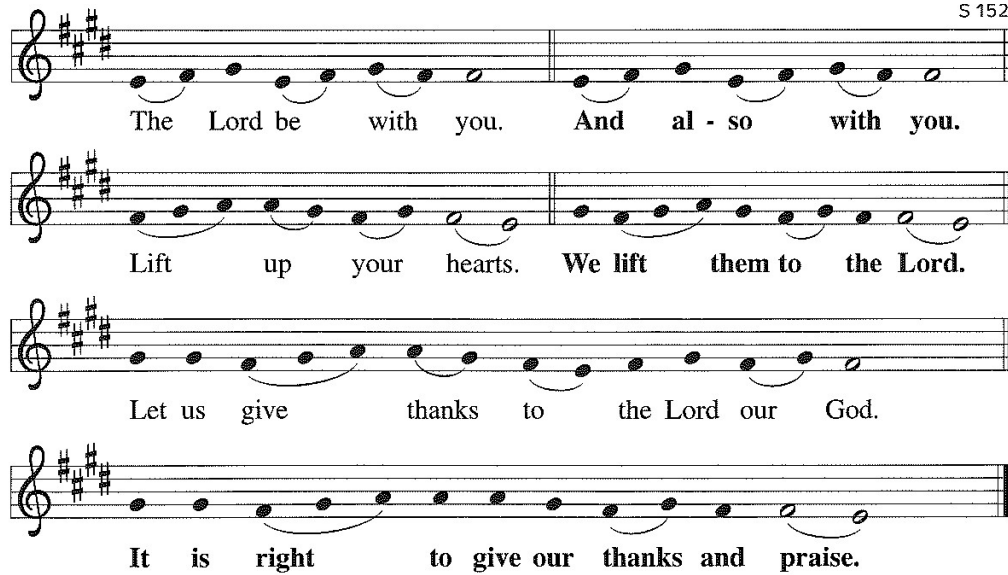
Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion Setting Four

S 152

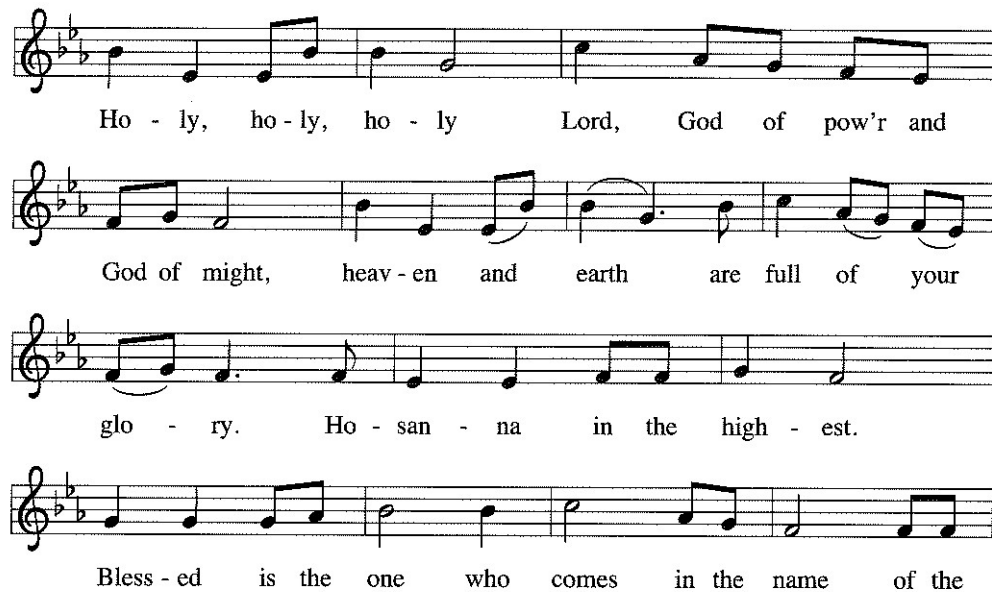


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



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.

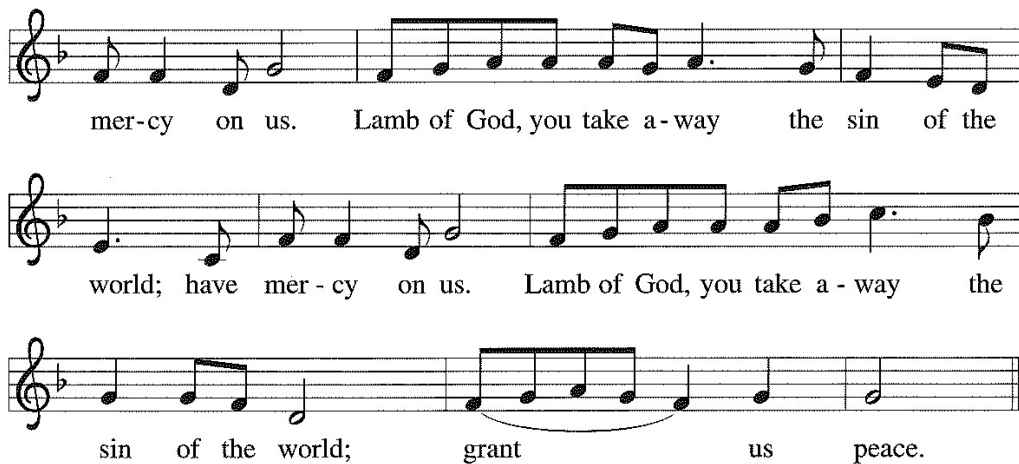
Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by 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 Four*





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.

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

Organ setting by Paul Manz;
Tune WIE SCHON LEUCHTET by Philipp Nicolai

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

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” ELW 810

MUNICH

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
2. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

3. Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.; Music *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

African American Spiritual
Organ setting by John Ferguson

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Maddie Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Choir, Amy Woodall, directing; Christian Souza, Amy Woodall, cantors; Elizabeth (Bibba) Whitener, guest organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Maddie Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team C; greeters: Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Janice Miller, A. J. Pridgen, John Simon; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Joe Barrett, Charles Lakeman

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Parish News

From the pastor -

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

The season of Epiphany is four to nine weeks (depending on the date of Easter), lasting from the Feast of Epiphany (January 6) through the day before Ash Wednesday (this year, February 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

Prayer of Blessing and Godspeed for Will Jacob. (10:30 service) With prayers of thanksgiving, we bless and send Will Jacob who will be entering service in the United States Air Force.

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.

Save the Date! The Congregational Life Committee is hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 pm. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us! More details will follow.

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! Thank you to all who have served and are signed up to serve. This ministry is a blessing to all who stay with us and to all who serve. Thank you.

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 is streamed live 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!

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.

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 (new name "Nourish Up") 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

"Rise, Shine, You People!" ELW 665 was written by Ronald A. Klug (b. 1939) for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany in 1974. Paul Westermeyer says in his *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* "the gospel for that day was Luke 4:21-30, where Jesus went to the synagogue with the people on the sabbath and read the scroll from Isaiah 4: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to bring good news to the poor...release to the captives. Or in the words of the hymn, Christ the Lord has entered our human story. So rise, shine, celebrate, and hurl your songs and prayers against the darkness." The tune **WOJKIEWIECZ** was written by American composer and musician Dale Wood (1934-2003) for this hymn, and was published in *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978). The tune bears Dale Wood's Polish family name, which was simplified when his family came to the United States.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

January 21, Agnes, martyr, (c.291-c.304)

Agnes was a Christian girl of about thirteen living Rome, despite the Roman emperor Diocletian's ruling that outlawed all Christian activity. The details of her martyrdom are unclear, but it is believed she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result. Her name appears in all martyrologies in both the East and the West. In art she is often depicted with a lamb, no doubt on account of the similarity of 'agnus' and 'Agnes.'

January 25, Conversion of Paul, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Today the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends, and the church remembers that Saul of Tarsus, a violent persecutor of the church, was encountered by Christ on the road to Damascus. Saul became known as "Paul," an Apostle to the gentiles. Through Paul, we remember that Christ calls all Christians to become apostles of the gospel for the sake of the world.

January 26, Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Timothy, Titus, and Silas were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem, and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul throughout Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake.

January 27, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

On this day the church remembers three women who were coworkers with Paul. Lydia was Paul's first convert at Philippi in Macedonia. She was a merchant of purple-dyed goods, and because purple dye was extremely expensive, it is likely that Lydia was a woman of some wealth. Lydia and her household were baptized by Paul, and for a time her home was a base for Paul's missionary work. Dorcas is remembered for her charitable works, particularly making clothing for needy widows. Phoebe was a *diakonos*, a deacon in the church at Cenchreae near Corinth. Paul praises her as one who, through her service looked after many people.

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)

Readings for 1/28/2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Birthdays

1/24 Mike Doyne



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)

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All the people of God at St. Mark's

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