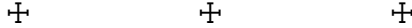




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



JANUARY 28, 2024

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God, and the Psalmist writes that God's righteousness endures forever. In Jesus' actions and words people sensed the enduring righteousness and love of God that continues to release humanity from the unclean spirits of our own age, freeing us to live with joy and peace. We are called to lives that build up others with the love of Christ.*

GATHERING

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

**Prelude**

“Partita on ‘Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing’”

Andante-Trio-Adagio; Tune AZMON by Carl G. Glaser

*Please stand as able.*

**Processional Hymn**

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW 886

AZMON

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.
3. The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
4. He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
5. Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!
6. To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

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

*Please be seated.*

**Welcome**

Pastor Timothy McKenzie



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Temple Talk

*“Souper Bowl of Caring”*

Youth and Pastor Tim

## WORD

### First Reading

### Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Karen Feezor, lector

<sup>15</sup>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 111

Delenn Rumbolo, Nick Matherly, cantors

Psalm 111:10 (Hal Hopson) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress



The fear of the LORD is the be - gin - ning of wis - dom.

<sup>1</sup>*Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

<sup>2</sup>*Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup>Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. <sup>4</sup>He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful. <sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. <sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. <sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. <sup>8</sup>They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. <sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. <sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.*

### Second Reading

### 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Karen Feezor, lector

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him. <sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and

one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

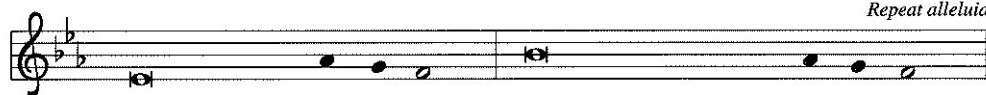
*Please stand as able.*

**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.

**The Holy Gospel Mark 1: 21-28**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*“Love builds up”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

“Healer of Our Every Ill” ELW 612

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

*Refrain:* Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

1. You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness; Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*
2. In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*
3. Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother; Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*
4. You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing; Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

### **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**

(Lisa Barnette, 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.*

Loving God, lead your church in every place, culture, and language to build up the body of Christ with acts and words of love. May all that we do embody the love, grace, and unconditional welcome of your Son. God of grace,

**Your mercy is great.**

God of knowing, we are constantly overwhelmed by many distractions from numerous news outlets and personalities that don't always represent the truth as you created it to be. We ask that you guide us always in discerning and revealing the false prophets among us. Remind us always that you are the one true God who loves us and in whom we must place our trust and faith in your un-changing truth. God of grace,

**Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet healed from the misuse of human hands. Help us as individuals, governments, and nations to commit to the thoughtful care of your creation. God of grace,

**Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and healing, as we lift up others in prayer, we release them in trust to God's care for their

physical healing and the peace of knowing the Spirit of God within each one in need. May each person named here and all others we care about in our hearts be shown compassion and the light of God's eternal love. Give healing hope and encouragement to: 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, Christopher Shirley, Pat & Gary Ragsdale, Tanner Grant, Michael Frye, Ken Foust, Gene Ellington, Wayne Lineberger, Laura Elliott, and Norma Alexander. God of grace,

**Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting Father, we offer you thanks for the life and witness of James Middleswarth. Knowing that Christ prepares a place for all the saints at the table in your kingdom, welcome Jim into the blessedness of your eternal kingdom, and may he share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Strengthen and comfort the extended Middleswarth family with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Christ Jesus. God of grace,

**Your mercy is great.**

God of faith and blessings, we give thanks to you for the many times you have built us up to seek only you in our individual lives and in the life of our church. You have strengthened St. Mark's with strong leaders and ministries that help maintain the mission of the church and those that extend the mission of outreach to the needs of the community. Please continue to pray for and support St. Mark's in our current ministries and the hopes and blessings of growth to keep us viable into the future. God of grace,

**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**

“Shine on Us, Lord Jesus”

Lee Dengler

*You are the Light. You guide us in Your way. You are the Way that leads us to truth. You are the Truth that brings us to new life. Shine on us, Lord Jesus. You are the Life. Light of the world, we feel the radiance of Your glory. We trust in You to lead us through the night. We find our place within redemption's story, as we reflect Your love that shines so bright.*

**Offertory**

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

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” ELW 614 stanza one

BALM IN GILEAD

*Refrain:* There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*

## 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 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.*

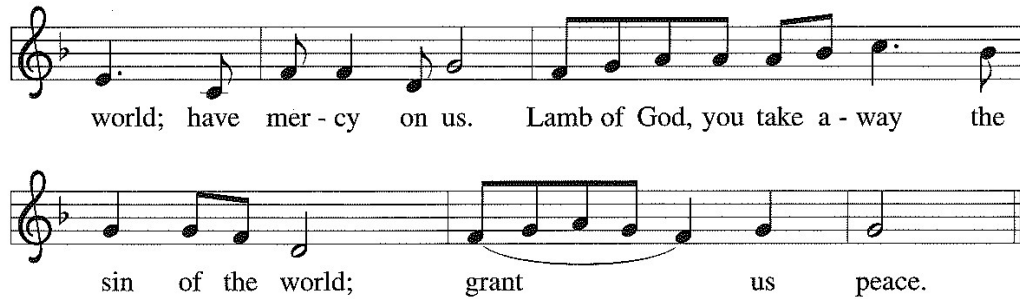
### Communion Music "Lamb of God" from *Holy Communion Setting Four*



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



“Prelude on ‘Healer of Our Every Ill’”

Tune by Mary Haugen  
Setting for organ by Franklin D. Ashdown

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” from *Cantata 147*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Jesu, joy of man’s desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright. Drawn by Thee our souls aspiring, Soar to uncreated light. Word of God our flesh that fashion’d With the fire of life impassion’d. Striving still to Truth unknown, Soaring, dying, round Thy throne.*

*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

“Jesus Shall Reign” ELW 434

DUKE STREET

1. Jesus shall reign where're the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

3. People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessing on his name.
4. Blessings abound where're he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.; Music: arr. John Hatton, d. 1793

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## Postlude

“Hymn Interpretation on ‘Jesus Shall Reign’”

Tune DUKE STREET by John Hatton

Organ setting by David Cherwein



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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Lisa Barnette; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; 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, ???; musicians: St. Mark's Choir, Nick Matherly, Jack Richardson, Delenn Rumbolo, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Cindy Little; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team A; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Flora Chance, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Michael Lakeman, Gretchen Payne; communion helper: tbd; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Doug Milheim



### 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

**Annual Meeting Today** Please stay for the Annual Meeting following today's service. A light lunch will follow the meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

**"Souper Bowl of Caring"** will culminate on Sunday 2/11. Please donate non-perishable food items to tackle hunger in our community. Sue Bruce from Loaves and Fishes will speak to us on 2/4 at the 10:30 service about the work they do responding to hunger in our community.

**Room in the Inn** Thank you to all who have served

this year. This ministry is a blessing to all who stay with us and to all who serve. Thank you.

**Food and Drink in the Sanctuary** The Property Committee respectfully asks that food and drink not be brought into the sanctuary. Worship leaders and choristers may have bottled water as it helps them during services. However, we also remember that we do eat and drink during worship at the Lord's table as we are fed and forgiven and sent out to serve others.

#### The Piedmont Fiber Guild is offering the following workshop available to St. Mark's members:

Beginning Temari Workshop February 17, 2024 Time: 10am - 4pm. There will be a break for lunch, please bring your lunch and beverage. **Location:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church, PFG Library rm 213 **Cost:** \$75, members. This **includes materials** and location rental fee. Members of St. Marks can register as PFG Member, please indicate in note during registration. **Participants bring:** scissors, pen, paper **Instructor:** Elisa DeCastro **Class Size:** Max 12, minimum of 6. Sign up/Registration on the Piedmont Fiber Guild website, link here [piedmont-fiberguild.org](http://piedmont-fiberguild.org)

#### Lenten Schedule

2/13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

2/14 Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes / Holy Communion 12:15 & 7 pm

Lenten Wednesday Suppers, 6 pm-6:45 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning 2/21.

Lenten Midweek Prayer, 7 pm (in-person and online), beginning 2/21.

**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.

**The Ethnic Restaurant Group** will dine at Portofino's Italian Restaurant on February 20, 2024 (7:00 PM). Portofino has been in Charlotte since 1996 and now has 4 restaurants in the local area. Judy and I have enjoyed eating at Portofino's multiple times. Our most recent dishes were scampi with gluten-free ziti and gorgonzola chicken. Both are recommended. The accompanying salads were crisp and interesting. A baguette made the meal complete. Our plan is to continue sampling the

menu. Menus can be found at portofinos-us.com. Portofino is located in Park Selwyn Terrace Shopping Center at 5126 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC 28209. This is the small-ish HarrisTeeter shopping mall close to Park Road/Selwyn Avenue intersection. Portofino promises a warm reception and a warm room in which to dine. Come and be part of an evening of convivial conversation and delicious viands! Contact Tom & Judy Tolbert for a reservation.

**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.

**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.** You are invited to join the Faith Forum for lively discussions led by Larry Dagenhart, Jr. during the month of February. The class meets at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

**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!

**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

**"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"** ELW 886 is the last hymn in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship (with only the seven national songs to follow). The great English hymn writer Charles Wesley (1707-1788) wrote over nine thousand hymns and poems, with this one being one of the ten included in our hymnal. Charles is the brother of John Wesley (1703-1791) the founder of Methodism. Charles wrote this hymn in 1739, on the anniversary of his conversion experience. It is possible he was influenced by Johann Mentzler (1658-1734), a Lutheran pastor, who penned "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" ELW 833, or his Moravian friend Peter Bohler (1712-1775) who said to Charles: "Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Him (Christ) with them all." Charles wrote eighteen stanzas for this hymn, but only six are included in our hymnal! The tune **AZMON** was arranged by Lowell Mason from a melody by Carl Glaser (1784-1829) and is named for a biblical place referenced in Numbers 34:4-5, and Joshua 15:4.

**"Jesus Shall Reign"** ELW 434 This is one of more than 600 hymns written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), who is often referred to as the father of English hymnody. Written in 1719 as a paraphrase of Psalm 72, it is one of the earliest hymns written with a missionary emphasis, and a fine example of Christianizing the psalms, with Watts' paraphrase clearly indicating that the "King" in the psalm was Christ. The tune **DUKE STREET** was composed by English Presbyterian John Hatton (d. 1793), who lived on Duke Street in St. Helen's in the township of Windle, Lancaster (or Lancashire).

**"There Is a Balm in Gilead"** ELW 614 "Balm of Gilead" was an aromatic medicinal ointment. In Jeremiah 8:22 the question is asked, "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?" and the expected answer in "No." But this spiritual turns the negative into affirmation, and hopelessness into hope. It is the Holy Spirit who "revives my soul," and it is Jesus who "is your friend" and "died for all." The balm is in Gilead and in every other place in this world. The African American tune **BALM IN GILEAD** comes anonymously from an oral tradition of the nineteenth century, where a vocal soloist sings the stanzas, with the refrain as a response by the congregation. This hymn and its tune had its first appearance in print in the collection *Folk Songs of the American Negro* (1907).

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

### **January 28, Thomas Aquinas, teacher (1225-1274)**

Thomas Aquinas was a brilliant and creative theologian of the thirteenth century. He was first and foremost a student of the Bible and profoundly concerned with the theological formation of the church's ordained ministers. As a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he worked to correlate scripture with the philosophy of Aristotle, which was having a renaissance in Aquinas's day. Aquinas sought to explain Christian beliefs within a philosophical framework.

### **February 2, The Presentation of Our Lord**

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophet named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child and his words have become the "*Nunc dimittis*" ("Now you dismiss") sung after Holy Communion, describing Jesus as "light for the nations."

### **February 3, Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden (801-865)**

"The Apostle of the North," Ansgar was a monk who led a mission to Denmark and later to Sweden, where he built the first Christian church. His work ran into difficulties with the rulers of the day, and he was forced to withdraw into Germany. In 832 he was appointed bishop of Hamburg, and in 848 of Bremen. In 852 Ansgar returned to Birka in Sweden and worked to establish good relations with King Olaf I. He later helped consecrate the first bishop of Sweden, Gautbert.

*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, 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 2/4/2024 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Lectionary 5

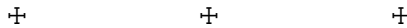
Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
*The Lord heals the  
brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)*  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

### Birthdays

1/30 Janice Simpson  
1/30 Christopher Miller  
2/3 Scott Howarth  
2/3 Charles Lakeman



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)

A graphic for Ash Wednesday. It features the text "ASH WEDNESDAY" in large, bold, serif font. Below it, the date "February 14, 2024" and "Service of Ashes" are listed, along with the times "12:15 pm & 7 pm" and a note "(7 pm also live on Facebook)". At the bottom, it mentions "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper" on February 13 at 6 pm and asks to "Look for the Sign Up email!". To the right of the text is a circular image of a wooden bowl containing grey ash with a cross-shaped indentation in the center.

**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

February 14, 2024  
Service of Ashes  
12:15 pm & 7 pm  
(7 pm also live on Facebook)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
February 13 at 6 pm  
Look for the Sign Up email!