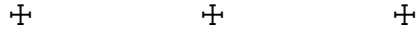




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



FEBRUARY 18, 2024

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

On Ash Wednesday the church, which is the body of Christ, began its forty day journey in the wilderness, led by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ. Peter connects Christ's suffering for all to our being saved through water, which was prefigured by Noah and his family in the flood. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, and the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world as God's covenant is lived out by Christ's body, the church.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Elegy for Organ"

George T. Thalben-Ball

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church" ELW 321

OLD 124TH

1. Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.
2. So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living in your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.
3. If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,
so into life and glory shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931-2003; Music: *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva 1551; Text ©Thomas H. Cain

Please be seated.

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

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

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,
We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.
Amen.

In Holy Baptism God washes us with a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.
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 “Kyrie Eleison, Lord, Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Maddie Thompson, lector

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 25:1-10

Nick Matherly, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 25:10 (Thomas Keesecker) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress



Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithful - ness.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ²O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. ³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. ⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! ⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Maddie Thompson, lector

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved

through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation “Return to the Lord, Your God” from *Holy Communion Setting Four*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel **Mark 1:9-15**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Saved through water”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

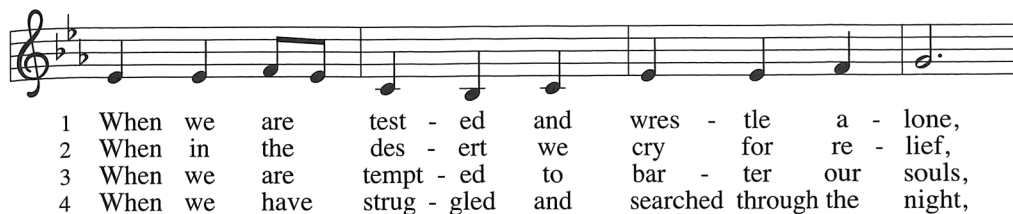
Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“When We Are Tested” ACS 922 from *All Creation Sings*

SLANE

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 ©1996 Hope Publishing Company; Music: Irish traditional



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,

fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

 nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

 food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

God our truth, through baptism into Christ, the ark of your church has room for all people of different nations, genders and identities. Bless us your church to welcome the diversity of all people as you continue to reveal the gospel through Christ's body who in Holy Baptism creates unity out of difference. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our maker, in the rainbow you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities rebuilding from natural disasters, and preserve species endangered by human recklessness so that the beauty and complexity of your creation will endure for future generations. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Christ our light, in your radiance you reveal our brokenness offering hope to all nations. Bring an end to conflict in war torn nations, and create a spirit of welcome to refugees who find themselves strangers in new lands. Free all who govern from the temptations of power, so they may serve all people with wisdom and compassion. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Christ our Savior, you care for your beloved children. Feed the hungry; shelter the homeless; comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, or in despair; and protect police, firefighters and military personnel from harm. We also remember our loved ones before your throne of grace: Greg Bruce, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Michael Frye, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Marilyn Denison, Sarah Lindberg, Danyne Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ben Watson, Tina Wiland, Martha Stackel, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Carl Sepmeyer, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, Virginia Stackel, David Mathis, and Jay Harbinson. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Spirit our inspiration, we give thanks that Christ calls us to lives of self-denial and the discipleship of following him. Bless this congregation these forty days of Lent in service to you and our neighbors as we give, pray, and fast, rending our hearts and returning to you. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Spirit our hope, you promise eternal life to all your beloved children. We remember with gratitude all who have lived and died in the faith, and ask that you would bless us also to live lives witnessing to you and serving others with lovingkindness. Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Please be seated.

OFFERING

(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)

Anthem

“Christ, When for Us You were Baptized”

Scottish Psalter Tune

Setting for choir and organ by Kenneth Lowenberg

Christ, when for us You were baptized, God's Spirit on You came, as peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame. God called You "My beloved Son," the suffering servant true, sent You the kingdom to proclaim, God's holy will to do.

Straightway and steadfast until death You then obeyed God's call freely as Son of Man to serve and give Your life for all. Baptize us with Your Spirit, Lord, Your cross on us be signed, that, likewise in God's service, we may perfect freedom find.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” ELW 188

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1671-1739.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

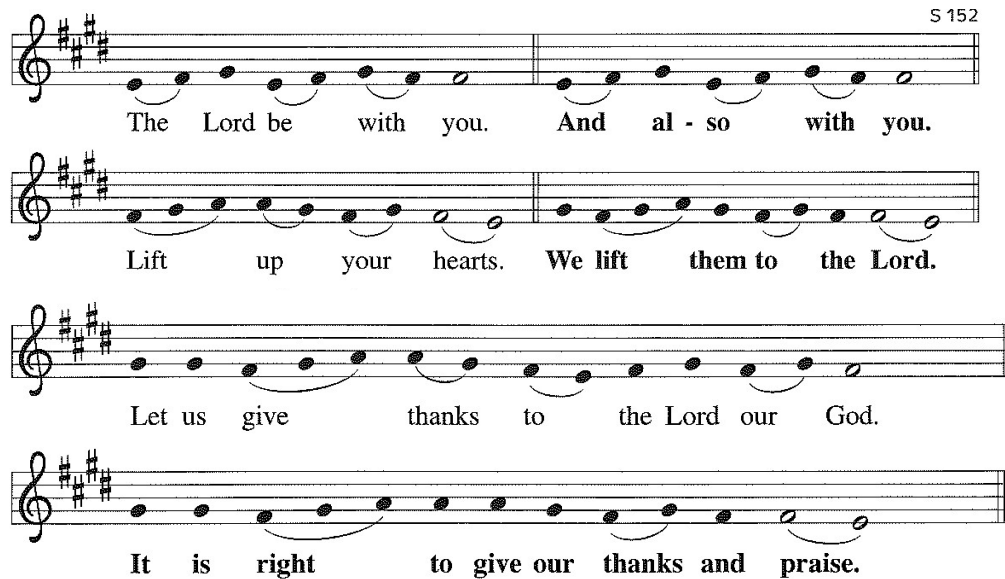
Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion Setting Four

S 152

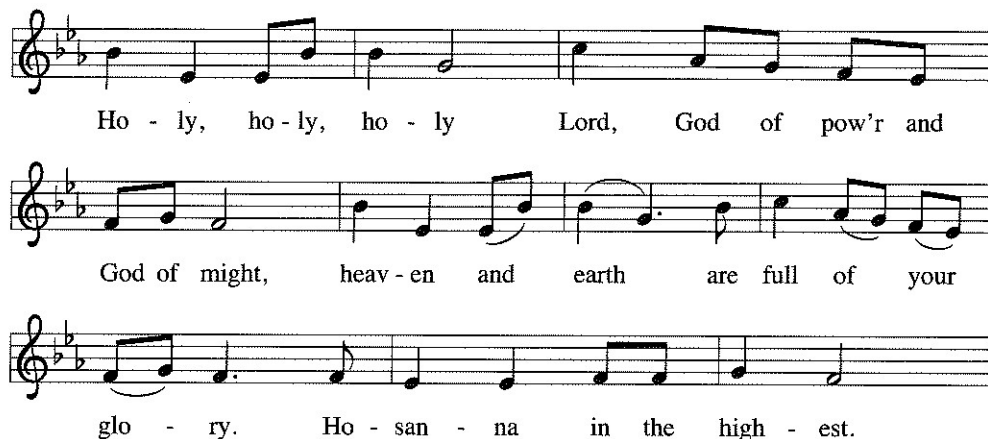


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Bread for the journey.
 A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

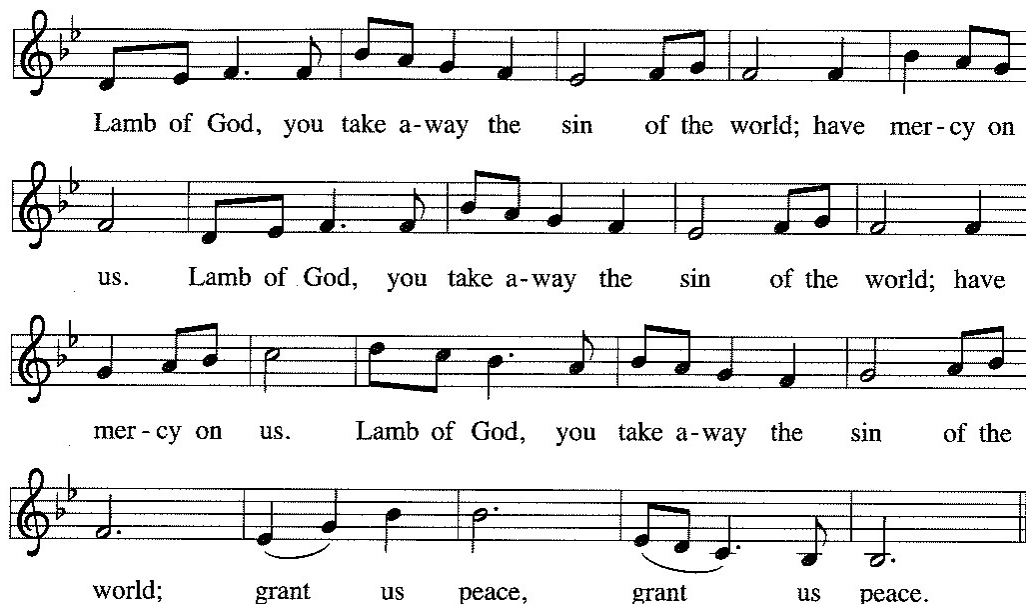
Please be seated.

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 Twelve*



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, grant us peace.

“Improvisation on ‘O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days’”

Kentucky Harmony tune
Organ setting by Edwin T. Childs

“A Lenten Walk” (Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley)

American Spiritual
Setting for organ and choir by Hal H. Hopson

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself Oh, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself. We must walk this lonesome valley, we must walk it by ourselves. Oh, nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk it by ourselves. Jesus bore the cross of sorrow; he had to bear it by himself; Oh, nobody else could bear it for him, he had to bear it by himself. We must take our cross and follow; Yes, we must follow by ourselves; Oh, nobody else can follow for us, we have to follow by ourselves.

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. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team A; greeters: Millie Cansler, Eileen Dunlap; communion assistants: Jay Jacob, Janice Miller, Gretchen Payne, A.J. Pridgen, Betsy Wenzel; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Meg Fielding, Charles Lakeman



Parish News

From the pastor -

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Lent is the journey of forty days during which we are invited to renew ourselves in discipleship to Jesus, who calls us to self-denial and the way of the cross. Jesus' words about self-denial invite us to examine who we are in the most profound way. Who is this person I think I am? Who is this "self" I think I know well, yet remains elusive? The Lenten journey of forty days is an invitation to see and understand ourselves before Jesus' cross on the path that Jesus walks. Jesus lives raised in this world in service to others. To follow Jesus is not the work of a single day or even forty days. It is the discipleship of a lifetime. Lent provides an opportunity to sharpen our focus upon Jesus and his suffering love for humanity, so that freed from a desire for the things of this world, we might more fully live for Jesus in service to others. This Lent, led by Christ, may you rediscover his grace in our life together at St. Mark's serving others!

In the fellowship of Christ,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Lenten Schedule

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.

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: During Lent we focus on Jesus' path to the cross and his sacrifice for us. One of our small sacrifices during this period is our donations into a small Lenten box. Boxes were passed out last Wednesday and will be available after the service again today. The letter with the boxes explains the recipient of this year's donations - REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. Infant care kits will be purchased for the little ones of our recently arrived refugees. Be sure to put your name on the box along with your envelope number if you have one. Donations can be made several ways - daily loose change, paper money, or simply write a check to St. Mark's and put it in the box. Keep the box where you can see it as a constant reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and the infants we will be helping. Please return to church before Easter.

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.

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will meet on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. All are welcome to join. Our study this month will be *Surviving Savannah* by Patti Callahan. The wreckage from the steamship Pulaski was recovered 180 years after the ship's sinking. When Savannah history professor Everly Winthrop is asked to guest-curate a new museum collection focusing on the recovered artifacts, she can't resist the opportunity to try to solve some of the mysteries and myths surrounding the night of the ship's sinking. Winthrop's research leads her to extraordinary stories of people who were on board. This book is a moving and powerful exploration of what women will do to endure in the face of tragedy, the role fate plays for them, and the myriad ways they survive their surviving. For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.

Theology on Tap Thursday, February 22 at 7 pm at Lower Left Brewing Company located at 4528 Nations Crossing Road . Everyone is welcome!

Carolina Pro Musica Concert February 23 at 7 pm! Handel premiered three operas in London in 1724. His output of music was tremendous. Experience Handel's world in works little-known today! Tickets for this concert are half price for SMLC! Enter SMHalfoff at [HTTP://www.CarolinaProMusica.org/schedule](http://www.CarolinaProMusica.org/schedule)

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.

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 February and March. 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/>).

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".



Mid-Week
Lenten
Prayer

"Holy Lament: God's Presence in Times of Distress"

February 21-March 20, 2024
6 - 6:45 pm Supper
7 pm Prayer Service
(in-person & live on Facebook)



Carolina Pro Musica
in Concert

Handel's Banner
Year 1724!
February 23, 2024
7:30 pm



Handel premiered three operas in London (1724). His output of music was tremendous. Experience Handel's world in works little-known today!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Ticket reservation:

[HTTPS://WWW.CAROLINAPROMUSICA.ORG/SCHEDULE](https://www.carolinapromusica.org/schedule)

Half price tickets for SMLC!!
Enter SMHalf off on CPM website

704-375-9185 www.SaintMarksCharlotte.org

Music Notes

"When We Are Tested" ACS 922 Our Hymn of the Day comes to us from the new collection of songs and hymns *All Creation Sings* (2020). Ruth Duck (b.1947) an American writer, liturgical theologian and ordained United Church of Christ pastor, was asked to write a hymn that told the story of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. It is included in her book *The Poetry of Grace* (2015). Duck's hymn is paired nicely with the familiar Irish tune **SLANE**, which is named for the hill where Saint Patrick is said to have defied the king by lighting the new fire at the Easter Vigil. This tune appears two times in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) ELW 793 "Be Thou My Vision" and ELW 765 "Lord of All Hopefulness".

"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" ELW 319 This nineteenth century hymn was written by Claudia Frances Hernamen (1838-1898) and published in her *A Child's Book of Praise* (1873). She had a life-long interest in Christian education, with over 150 hymns written especially for children. This hymn attempts to explain the deeper meanings of the forty days of Lent: fasting, praying, temptations, penitence which point to the joys of Easter which follows the penitential season. The shape note tune **CONSOLATION** was compiled by Ananias Davison (1780-1857) in his *Kentucky Harmony* (Lexington, 1816). Shape notes are a musical notation designed to facilitate congregational and social singing. Shapes were added to note-heads in written music to help singers find pitches within major and minor scales without the use of more complex notation like key signatures on the staff .

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

February 18, Martin Luther (1483-1546), renewer of the church

On this day in 1546, Martin Luther died at the age of sixty-two. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it was his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, public confessor of the faith, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, musician, and father of German vernacular literature that holds him in our remembrance. In Luther's own judgment, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism, written to instruct people in the basics of faith. An accomplished musician, Luther published the first vernacular hymnal in 1524 which has had lasting impact upon Protestant and Catholic hymnals alike. The *ELW* contains sixteen hymns for which Luther either composed music or words, or that he translated. Significantly, it was faith in the promises of baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.

February 23, Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr (69-155)

Polycarp was a link between the apostolic age and the church at the end of the second century. He is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, and was known by Irenaeus, bishop of Lyon in France. As the age of eighty-six he was martyred for his faith. Urged to save his life and renounce his faith, Polycarp replied, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" Polycarp was burned at the stake, his death a testimony to the cost of following Christ. Ignatius of Antioch, who was also martyred (c.110), wrote to Polycarp, "Stand firm like an anvil being struck by a hammer. It is the mark of a great athlete to be bruised, yet still conquer. Wait for him who is above time: the Eternal, the Invisible, who for our sake became visible; the Intangible, the Un suffering, who for our sake suffered, who for our sake endured in every way."

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Greg Bruce, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Michael Frye, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Marilyn Denison, Sarah Lindberg, Danyne Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ben Watson, Tina Wiland, Martha Stackel, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Carl Sepmeyer, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, Virginia Stackel, David Mathis, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests

(pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 2/25/2024

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

*All the ends of the earth shall
remember and turn to*

the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

Birthdays

2/18 Barry Fulp

2/21 Max Doyne

2/23 Judy Tolbert

2/24 Alice Blackwelder



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)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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