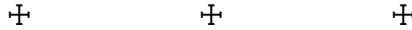




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



FEBRUARY 25, 2024

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

God promised to make Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of many, and Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in God who brings life into being where there was no life. As Abraham and Sarah received new names as a sign of the covenant, we too receive new identities in baptism as we put on Christ, denying ourselves and following Jesus. Living in the covenant of your baptism, hope against hope in the promises of God who is creating a new thing in and through you!

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Ario" BWV 156 for cello and organ

Johann Sebastian Bach
James Churchill, cello

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"The God of Abraham Praise" ELW 831

YIGDAL

1. The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love-
"I Am the One I Am"-by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.
2. The God of Abr'ham praise! At your supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
I all on earth forsake-its wisdom, fame, and pow'r-
and you my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.
3. The God of Abr'ham praise! Your all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.
You deign to call me friend; you call yourself my God!
And you will save me to the end through Jesus'blood.
4. Your promise you have sworn; I on your oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold your face; I shall your pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of your grace forevermore.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 17285-1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.; Music: Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751-1797

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. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

Lisa Barnette, lector

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 22:23-31

Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, cantors



All the ends of the earth shall re-mem - ber and turn_ to the Lord.

²³*You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!*

²⁴*For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not bide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.*

²⁵*From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, ³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.*

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrows meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Holy Baptism

Presentation

The pastor invites Elsa and Nicholas Wartner, and family to come forward, and addresses the assembly.

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The parents present the candidate.

We present Erich Emiliano Wartner for baptism.

The pastor addresses the parents.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn and trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support Erich Emiliano Wartner and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

The pastor addresses the parents. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The pastor addresses the parents, sponsors and assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The pastor leads the thanksgiving as water is poured into the font.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism

Erich Emiliano, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Erich Emiliano with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Erich Emiliano, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative redeeming word to all the world.

The service continues with the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

(Charles Lakeman, prayer assistant)

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.*

Loving God, as your word has been revealed from the days of Abraham until this time make your church faithful in our generation to believe your promises and follow the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Teach us to be humble in acknowledging that all our gifts come from you so we may serve others and spread your Good News. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, it is easy to recognize your presence in the beauty and wonders of earth and sky, of flower and field, of ocean, mountain, desert and prairie. Help us also to recognize your presence in our modern world, in the wonders of medicine, science and engineering, in finding and using the resources of the earth, in art and creativity. We pray that we may be careful stewards of all your bounteous gifts to us and that we may never cease to marvel in the all the wonders and mysteries of your creation. Grant us wisdom and humility to use these creative gifts to solve global challenges and improve the lives of all, yet still maintain and preserve the beauty of the natural environment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of Peace, we pray urgently for all who suffer because of war. Daily, we see the misery and anguish in Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia and so many other places but so often, our comfort, wealth and security insulate us from the tragedy. Open our hearts, O God, and stir us to action to end these wars. Grant wisdom and perseverance to all who are working to find solutions and embolden us to encourage our leaders to overcome petty partisanship for the greater good of relieving suffering. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of Healing, we ask for the restoration of health for all who are bowed down with affliction, sickness, and grief, and to the dying grant peace and firmness of faith in the resurrection. Bless caregivers and medical teams with compassion to be the hands of your healing. Grant strength and hope to: Angie Blackwelder Malone, Greg Bruce, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Michael Frye, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Sarah Lindberg, Dannye 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.

Lord, each day, we face temptations and we pray for the strength to overcome them. During this season of Lent, help us to grow through our disciplines of prayer, fasting and generosity to rise above our desires and overcome the hurdles in our lives to choose faithfulness over popularity, service over fame, sacrifice over

power so we might live as your true disciples. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the Nations, you made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah, promising they would become ancestors to nations; bless the people of all nations to believe in you, and lead us into the new Jerusalem where crying, pain, and death will be no more. 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

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

Tune by Georg G. Boltze

Setting for choir, cello and organ by Dan Forrest

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure, through a world that would deceive us, where to sin our hearts are lured. Ever in His footsteps treading, living here, bet home above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Father's bidding, faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead, I follow thee. Let us also die with Jesus, by His cross He conquer'd death, freed us from our souls' destruction, quickened us with life's new breath. Let us mortify, while living, self and pride, and die to sin, and the grace that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven. Jesus, here I die to Thee, there to dwell eternally. Let us gladly live with Jesus, He is risen from the dead. Death is swallowed up in vict'ry, Jesus, Thou art now our Head. Living members of Thy Body, where Thou livest, we shall be, Thou wilt keep us constantly, even so, dear Lord, come quickly, Jesus, here I live to Thee, there to dwell eternally. Let us ever walk with Jesus.

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



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 at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month distribution is by intinction. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are always available. Communion kits are no longer 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.

"Adagio in G Major" for cello and piano

Camille Saint-Saens

"Reverie" from *Partita on 'FOUNDATION'*

Early American Tune; Organ setting by Alice Jordan

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

Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you,

Show us your mercy,

Fill us with courage, and ✠ give us peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation” ELW 796

FOUNDATION

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”
3. “When through fi’ry trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”
4. “Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov’rign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.”

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787. Alt.; Music: Early American

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Fugue in C Minor” BWV 549 (excerpted)

Johann Sebastian Bach



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Jay Jacob, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Millie Cansler, Eileen Dunlap; communion assistants: Jay Jacob, Janice Miller, Gretchen Payne, Kevin Feezor, Betsy Wenzel; communion: helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Meg Fielding, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir, James Churchill, cello; Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer: Needed; acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team A; greeters: TBD; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Flora Chance, Charles, Susan & Michael Lakeman; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Alan harms, Joe Barrett

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

Baptism Today. (10:30 service) In Holy Baptism, we welcome with joy, Erich Emiliano Wartner, into Christ's body the church at St. Mark's. May God bless Erich Emiliano, his parents Nicolas and Elsa, and brother Alexander.

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.

Spring Cleaning Day! Saturday 3/16, 8:30 am-11:30 am (alternate date in the event of rain: 3/23).

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at The Improper Pig at Rea Farms on 19 March 2024 (Tuesday) at 7:00 PM. This innovative smokehouse is located in Rea Farms (9855 Sandy Rock Place, Suite A, Charlotte, NC 28277). You can see a large HarrisTeeter and parking lot through the restaurant's back windows. Rea Farms is on the west side of Providence Road (NC-16) between I-485 and Ardrey Kell Road. Access from Ardrey Kell is onto Sandy Rock Place; access from Providence is onto Golf Links Drive. All are welcome. The Improper Pig has extensive list of smokehouse favorites: beef, pork, chicken, seafood, vegetables, and gluten-free dishes, sides galore, and some intriguing desserts. Picking a favorite may be challenging! They serve classic Southern BBQ and more innovative dishes. All of our meals there have been palate-pleasing, and have left us with a desire to return for additional culinary experiences. The Improper Pig uses "call-ahead" for individuals, families, and groups. We will be seated at tables as we arrive. The staff will try to seat us at relatively close-together tables. So, pick partners and team up as friends arrive and claim a table. It will be helpful if you let Tom & Judy Tolbert know of your plans to attend, so that we can make one call-ahead for all of our group. We look forward to sharing a "Southern" dinner with a large group of smokehouse-loving diners.

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. through 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".

Music Notes

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" ELW 802 This is one of fifty hymns written by German poet Sigismund von Birken (1626-1681). He was born in Bohemia (present-day Czech Republic), and was the son of a Lutheran pastor. Von Birken intended this hymn for Passiontide, and is based on Luke 18:31-43, where Jesus predicts his own death and resurrection. Additionally, Romans 6, reflects this reference to death and resurrection in Christ "If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection." J. Adam Rimbach (1871-1941), an American Lutheran pastor, translated this hymn into English in 1910, and was it included in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book* (1912). Georg G. Boltze (1750-1789) a cantor and school teacher, wrote the tune **LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN**.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW 803 Is from the pen of English hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748), this hymn has been labeled by the nineteenth century theologian and literary critic Matthew Arnold as the greatest hymn in the English language. Watt's hymn is based on two sources from the writings of the Apostle Paul, the first, a verse from Galatians--"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world", and the second, a verse from the third chapter of Philippians--"Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ". Isaac Watt's intended this hymn for a communion service he wrote in 1707, with the original title "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ". American composer Lowell Mason (1792-1872) composed the tune **HAMBURG** in 1824, and takes it's name for that city in Germany. He states that he arranged this melody from a Gregorian chant, with only a range of five different pitches: E, F, G, A, B flat.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

February 25, Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess (1850-1921)

Fedde was born in Norway and trained as a deaconess. In 1882, at the age of thirty-two, she was asked to come to New York to minister to the poor and to Norwegian seamen. She founded the Norwegian Relief Society to work among immigrants. Her influence was wide-ranging, and she established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn to train women as deaconesses, which eventually became NYU Lutheran Medical Center. Fedde founded the Deaconess House and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church in Minneapolis, and helped plan hospitals in Chicago and North Dakota.

March 1, George Herbert, hymnwriter (1593-1633)

As a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, England, George Herbert excelled in languages and music. His scholastic ability earned him a fellowship, and his skill as the Public Orator of the university attracted the attention of King James I. Herbert served in Parliament for two years. After the death of King James and at the urging of a friend, Herbert's interest in ordained ministry was renewed. He was ordained a priest in 1630 and served the small parish of St. Andrew Bemerton until his death. He was noted for unflinching care of his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need. He was the younger brother of (Edward) Herbert of Cherbury the philosopher and deist. George Herbert is best remembered, however, as a writer of poems and hymns such as "Come, my way, my truth, my life" (ELW 816).

March 2, John Wesley (1703-1791); Charles Wesley (1707-1788); renewers of the church

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline (or method) of frequent communion, fasting and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time, but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience during a Moravian meeting while listening to a reading of Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*, John "felt his heart strangely warmed." He went on to become perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth century Christian revival. The brothers' desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal within the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed independently. Charles wrote more than six hundred hymns, including "Hark! The herald angels sing" (ELW 270), "Christ whose glory fills the skies" (ELW 553), and "Love divine, all loves excelling" (ELW 631).

St. Mark's Prayer List

Angie Blackwelder Malone, Greg Bruce, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Michael Frye, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Sarah Lindberg, Danye 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 3/3/2024

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

The commandment of the Lord

gives light to the eyes. (Ps.

19:8)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Birthdays

2/26 Cynthia Little

3/1 Elaine Hazen



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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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgyamar, Parish Administrator

admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator

finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | saintmarkscharlotte.org | 704.375.9185