



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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

*In Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick to health and service. Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

GATHERING

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

**Prelude**

“Laudate Dominum” (Praise the Lord) from *Solemn Vespers*, K. 339

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Setting for cello and organ; John Brumbaugh, cellist

*Please stand as able.*

**Processional Hymn**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858

LOBE DEN HERREN

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
if with his love he befriend you.
4. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: *Erneuertem Gesangbuch*, part II, Stralsund, 1665

*Please be seated.*



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Temple Talk

“Souper Bowl of Caring”

Sue Bruce, Marketing and Events Director of Loaves and Fishes

## WORD

### First Reading

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

Cindy Little, lector

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*The Word of the Lord*

### Thanks be to God

### Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Melody Long, Christian Souza, cantors

Psalm 147:3 (Hal Hopson) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress



<sup>1</sup>*Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.* <sup>2</sup>*The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.* <sup>3</sup>*He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.* <sup>4</sup>*He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.* <sup>5</sup>*Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.* <sup>6</sup>*The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.* <sup>7</sup>*Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.* <sup>8</sup>*He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.* <sup>9</sup>*He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.* <sup>10</sup>*His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner; <sup>11</sup>but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. Praise the LORD!*

**Second Reading****1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

Cindy Little, lector

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

*The Word of the Lord***Thanks be to God***Please stand as able.***Gospel Acclamation**

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

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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

**The Holy Gospel****Mark 1: 29-39***The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

*The Gospel of the Lord.***Praise to you, O Christ.***Please be seated.*

Please stand as able.

### Hymn of the Day

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW 843

NETTLETON

1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;  
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
3. Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915 ©2006 ELCA; Augsburg Fortress Press

### 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

(Michael Thompson, prayer assistant)

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

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

Everlasting God, as you give your healing power to the church, bless the church in every place and language to respond to the needs of those who suffer so that all might know your power and the peace of your healing. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of strength, You give power to the weak. In a world where the meek are ignored, abused, abandoned, and refused, give them Your strength so their needs might be met, their grievances might be heard, and their safety might be secured. Give us all the strength to care for each other and ensure that the least among us becomes the first in Your Kingdom. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, you order time and space, blessing us with the abundance of your creation. Use each of us to help bring your creation into harmony with your will and inspire us to honor all that you have made. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord of mercy, grant your healing touch to physicians, nurses, technicians, and first responders that they may help the sick and those who are recovering the way Christ did throughout His ministry here on Earth. We especially ask for Your blessings upon: 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, Danye Olin Bragdon, Sarah Lindberg, Marilyn Denison, Eileen Dunlap, Christopher Shirley, Tanner Grant, Michael Frye, Ken Foust, Gene Ellington, Wayne Lineberger, Laura Elliott, and Norma Alexander. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, you have promised a family of faith as vast as the stars in the sky. We remember and give thanks for all who have died in the faith and ask that you shelter all who mourn with your mercy, keeping us all in the hope of Christ's resurrection. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord of all, Your power and understanding knows no limits. Mend the brokenhearted and distressed. Sustain the humble and downtrodden. Inspire us to sing Your name with grateful praise and put our hope in Your unfailing love. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**Peace** *(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)*  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*Please be seated.*

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

**Anthem** “How Can I Keep from Singing”  
Tune by Robert Lowry  
Setting for choir, cello and organ by Alfred V. Fedak

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation. I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul how can I keep from singing? No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing? What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night He giveth. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am His! How can I keep from singing?*

## Offertory

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

“Arise, Your Light Has Come” ELW 314 stanzas 1 & 4

FESTAL SONG

1. Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
4. Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Dick, b. 1947; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893, T&M: 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

## Offering Prayer

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

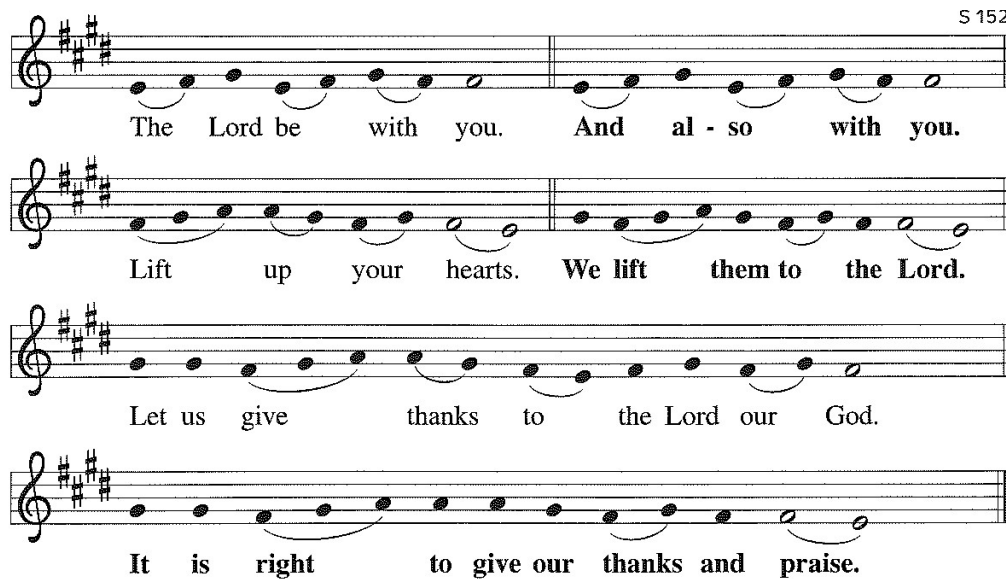
**Amen.**

## Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Holy Communion Setting Four*

S 152



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

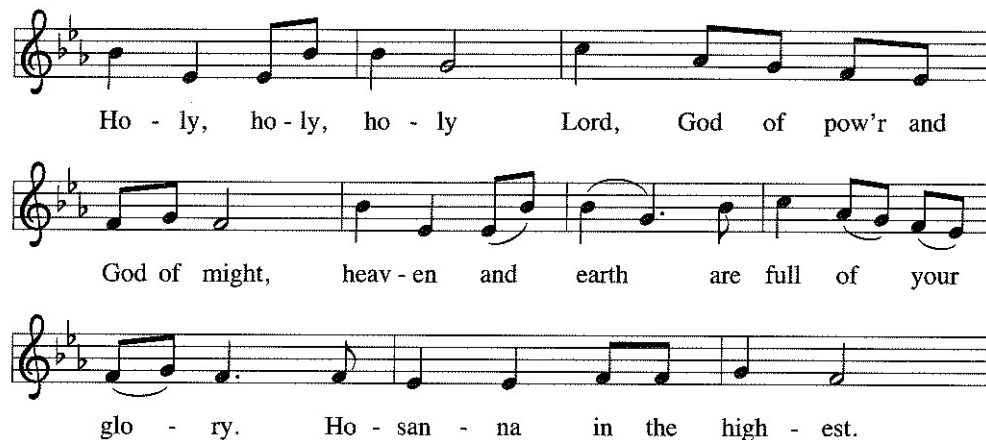
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

### Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *All Creation Sings, Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



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

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Invitation**

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

*Please be seated.*

**Distribution of Holy Communion**

*Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by 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  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

“If with All Your Hearts” from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn  
Setting for cello and organ by Lynne Latham

“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”

Tune NYACK by Warren Swenson  
Setting for choir, cello and organ by Kevin Robison

*Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face; here would I touch and handle things unseen; here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace, and all my weariness upon thee lean. Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with thee the royal wine of heav'n; here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n. I have no help but thine, nor do I need another arm save thine to lean upon; it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed; my strength is in thy might, thy might alone. This is the hour of banquet and song; let feasting still prolong this hour of fellowship with thee. Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness; mine if the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood, here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace; thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.*

*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

“God, Whose Almighty Word” ELW 673

ITALIAN HYMN

1. God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard  
and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the  
gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.
2. Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing,  
healing and sight; health to the troubled mind, sight where illusions  
blind; oh, now to humankind let there be light.
3. Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth your flight; move on the water’s face bearing the  
lamp of grace, and in earth’s darkest place let there be light.
4. Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might: boundless as ocean’s tide, rolling in  
fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.; Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## Postlude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Tune LOBE DEN HERREN

Organ setting by Johann Gottfried Walther



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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: needed; lector: Cindy Little; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Jay Jacob, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Flora Chance, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Michael Lakeman, Gretchen Payne; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Doug Milheim; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir, John Brumbaugh, cellist; Melody Long, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Michael Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Marty Schwartz; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team A;

greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Chris Stevenson, Nick Wartner, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Carol Goodall



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## Parish News

## Coming Up at St. Mark's

### 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

### Worship and Congregational Life

**Altar Flowers Today** are given In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Sehorn and Mr. & Mrs. Onree Crocker from Tom & Kay Sehorn, Matt & Ashley Frusti, and Bryan & Shelley Ashcroft.

**Temple Talk (10:30 service)** Today we welcome Sue Bruce, Marketing and Events Director of Loaves and Fishes (now named Nourish Up) to share about the work they do responding to hunger in our community.

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

**Room in the Inn** Thank you to all who have served and are signed up to serve. This ministry is a blessing to all who stay with us and to all who serve. Thank you.

**Food and Drink in the Sanctuary** A gentle reminder that food and drink should not be brought into the sanctuary. Worship leaders and choristers may have bottled water as it helps them during services.

### 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 [piedmontfiber-guild.org](http://piedmontfiber-guild.org), by February 12.

### **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.

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!**

Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 pm, sponsored by Congregational Life. Please sign up! Copy the link to your browser or call the church office: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-47548322-shrove>.

**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](http://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 SMHalf-off 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.

**2024 Offering Envelopes:** Please pick up your 2024 envelopes in the Gathering Place. If you need envelopes, please fill out the on the table.

**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

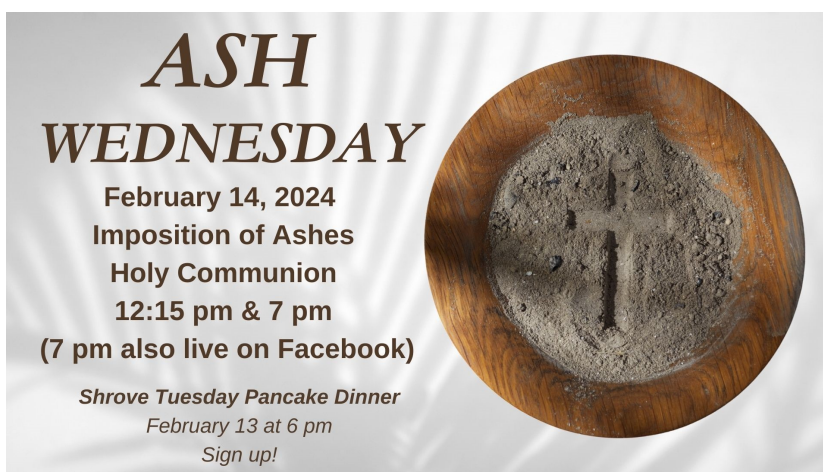
We continue to remember the hungry and homeless through our social ministries.

**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".



**ASH**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
February 14, 2024  
Imposition of Ashes  
Holy Communion  
12:15 pm & 7 pm  
(7 pm also live on Facebook)  
*Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner*  
February 13 at 6 pm  
Sign up!



## Music Notes

**"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"** ELW 858 is one of the most exuberant and beloved hymns of praise and thanksgiving that we have in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The *Julian Dictionary of Hymnology* calls this hymn "a magnificent hymn of praise, perhaps the finest production of its author and of the first rank in its class." Hymn writer Joachim Neander (1650-1680) included the hymn in his collection of hymns and psalm settings, published in 1680. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) did the translation from German to English, and included it in her *Chorale Book for England* (1863). She is also the translator of the well-known hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" ELW 840. **"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"** is based on two psalms, Psalm 103:1-6, and Psalm 150:6, and originally had five stanzas. **LOBE DEN HERREN** is an anonymous German tune, which first appeared in a publication from 1665. Even though the first two lines have fourteen syllables each, the tune dances along nicely.

**"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"** ELW 843 was written by Lutheran pastor, writer and composer Rusty Edwards (b.1955), and first published in *The Lutheran Journal* (1986). This popular hymn has been included in ten major hymnals in the United States, Scotland, and Canada. Edwards says of his hymn: "It is astounding how much Jesus did in such a brief earthly ministry, yet more astounding is how God's blessing and saving acts continue on through Christ. How can we do other than praise this Light in the darkness?" The American tune **NETTLETON**, first published in Harrisburg, PA in 1813, captures the spirited essence of Edward's text. The tune **NETTLETON** was named for Rev. Asahel Nettleton, a noted American evangelist of the early eighteenth century.

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

### **February 5, The Twenty-Six Martyrs of Japan, died 1597**

The "Twenty-Six Martyrs of Japan" were crucified on this date for their Christian faith by the feudal government of Japan on Nishizaka, a hill in Nagasaki. Earlier in 1549, Jesuit missionaries, led by Francis Xavier, introduced Christianity to Japan. However, rivalry between Jesuits and other monastic orders led to tension with the feudal government. Coupled with the tensions of trade and diplomacy between Japan, Portugal and Spain, Christianity was outlawed in 1614 and expelled from Japan beginning in 1633 with a series of expulsion edicts. The martyrs included twenty Japanese Christians and six foreign Christians, both lay and ordained. They are remembered on this date in Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. The edict against Christianity was finally lifted in 1872 due to diplomatic pressure by western governments.

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, Sarah Lindberg, Marilyn Denison, Eileen Dunlap, Christopher Shirley, 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 2/11/2024

#### Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

*Out of Zion, perfect in beauty,*

*God shines forth in glory.*

*(Ps. 50:2)*

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

### Birthdays

2/6 Charlotte Dixon

2/9 David Ferner

2/12 Elizabeth Williams

2/13 Jake Weckerle



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))

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## *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)