



MARK'S

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

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MARCH 10, 2024

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In today's gospel, Jesus explains salvation to Nicodemus, saying that as Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, he will be lifted up onto the cross so that those who believe in him will have eternal life. The sign of the cross we receive in baptism is God's sign of love for this world. When we believe in Jesus and his cross, we are made children of God, and restored with the divine image of God, who is light and love.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Tune ST. CHRISTOPHER by Frederick C. Maker

Setting for handbells by Cynthia Dobrinski

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"Lift High the Cross" ELW 660

CRUCIFER

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956; Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947; T&M: ©1974 Hope Publishing Co.

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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Music Interlude

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Tune Lowell Mason; Setting for handbells by Lloyd Larson

Temple Talk

“Samaritan House”

Rodney Tucker, Executive Director

WORD

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

Lowell Engelhard, lector

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Nick Matherly, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 107:19 (John Helgen); Refrain from Psalter for Worship Year B © 2008 Augsburg Fortress



You de - li - ver your peo - ple from their dis - tress.

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ¹⁷Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; ¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; ²⁰he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. ²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. ²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

Lowell Engelhard, lector

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh

and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

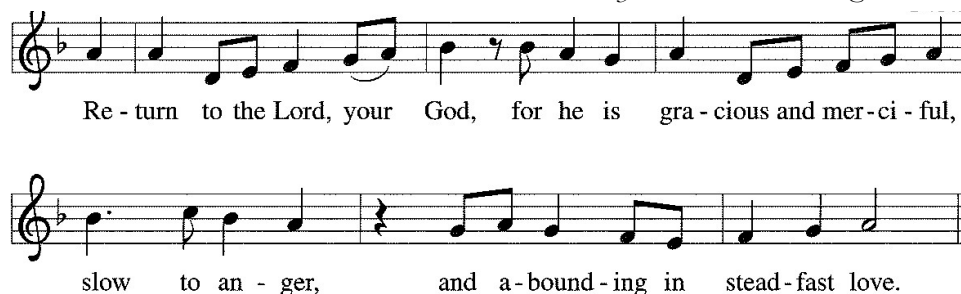
The Word of the Lord

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 **John 3:14-21**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Live into the light”

Meg Fielding, Synodical Lay Preacher, candidate

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“God Loved the World” ELW 323

ROCKINGHAM OLD

1. God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe should ever-lasting life receive.
2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.
3. If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.
4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.
5. All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Geanghach*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt; Music: Edward Miller, 1731-1807, adapt.

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

(Tom Tolbert, 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.*

Gracious God, unite your church throughout this world you so love with a spirit of ecumenical cooperation for the sake of Christ's body the church, and unite all people of faith across religions with a spirit of inter-religious understanding all for the sake of Jesus who meets us where we are with the light of grace and steadfast love for all humankind. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all time, restrain our wanton destruction of earth's resources. Teach us how to be responsible stewards of so great a treasure as this home that you created. Give us wisdom and insight to stop assaults that we unknowingly and deliberately cause through our lack of understanding the complexity of our environment. Show us how to sustain air, steams, oceans, fields, forests, and diversity of all living beings for enjoyment and nurture of future generations, for you declared all of creation "good" at the beginning of time. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come now, O Prince of Peace! Charge our lives and the lives of all people with the power of your peace. Grant leaders of all nations compassion and wisdom to reduce suffering and to reconcile disagreeing factions. Help us overcome our own fears. Grant confidence in your love to people who live in the midst of war-ravaged lands. May we reflect your generosity and justice to refugees whose lives have been torn

asunder by wrath, hatred, violence, and terror. Keep the fatigue of disillusionment far from us, and prove again your promised presence that gives hope for a future when all people live in love as one body. Let the radiance of your love enlighten each of our days with hope, so that we may walk in your truth and show love to others in your Name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your patience in suffering you hallowed earthly pain and gave us the example of obedience to your Father's will. Be near all who are experiencing sorrow, loss, weariness, sickness, weakness, and pain. Sustain all those who turn to you for your grace of strength, courage, hope, and healing. Please be with the sick to ease their burdens, protect them, and reassure their families. Grant strength and hope to: Jettie Leslie, 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, 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.

Incarnate God, Jesus, the light of the world, is the embodiment of your love. Bless the ministries of our church in this place to continue to be signs of light and love amid the world's darkness so that with hope all people might do what is true and come to the light of the Son, Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, you have promised that whoever believes in your only Son, may have eternal life. We give thanks for the life of Dave Sildel, friend of Mark Thornton. Welcome Dave into the blessedness of your eternal kingdom and may he share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Strengthen and comfort the Sildel family with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Christ Jesus. 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

“Out of the Depths Have I Cried Unto Thee”

Paul O. Manz

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice: let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? But there is a forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope; my soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is redemption, and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

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. Come to Jesus’ table!

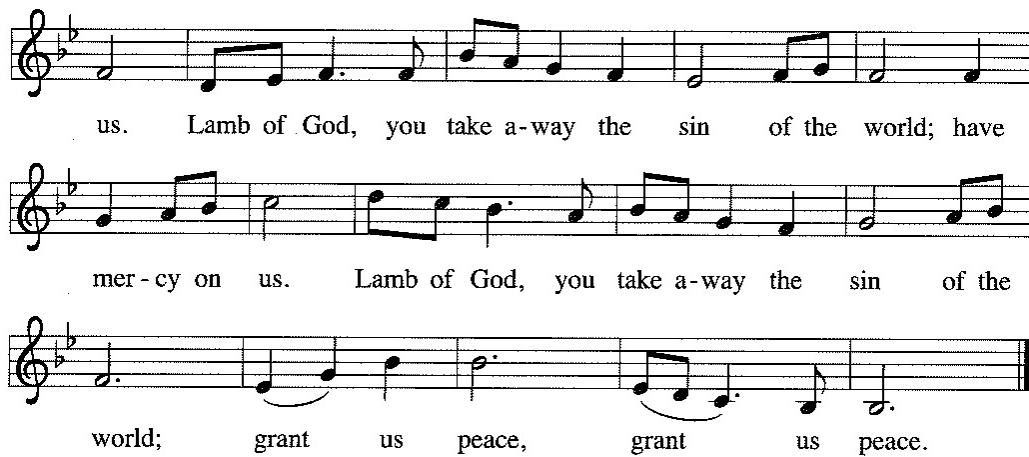
Please be seated.

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.

“Meditation” from *Partita on ‘Lift High the Cross’*

Tune by Sydney H. Nicholson; Organ setting by Charles Callahan

“Kyrie Eleison” from *Little Organ Mass*

Joseph Haydn

Kyrie eleison, eleison. Christe eleison, eleison. Kyrie eleison, eleison.

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 you with mercy,

Fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW 779

NEW BRITAIN

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. sts. 1-4; anonymous s. 5); Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Toccata on ‘Amazing Grace’”

Southern Harmony Tune
Organ setting by J. Christopher Pardini

+ + +

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Lowell Engelhard; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding ; greeters: Joanne Marz, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Cliff Edahl, Karen & Kevin Feezor, A. J. Pridgen; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Janice Miller, Diane Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; St. Mark's Handbell Choir; Amy Woodall, Nick Matherly, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Youth; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team B; greeters: Tom & Kay Sehorn, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Janice Miller, Gretchen Payne, Chris Stevenson, Nick Wartner, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Carol Goodall, Karen Feezor

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, 3/6-20.

Lenten Midweek Prayer, 7 pm (in-person and online), 3/6-20

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). Please bring your favorite tools/supplies!

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 as 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.

Our March Theology on Tap will be held at Sweet Union Brewery, located at 13717 E Independence Blvd, Indian Trail at 7pm on March 21. Everyone is welcome!

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will meet on Thursday, March 28, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our book this month is The

Book Thief by Markus Zusak. The story is set in Nazi Germany in 1939, and Death is the narrator. Liesel Meminger is a young girl in a foster home. She (as well as many others) is barely eking out an existence. Liesel cannot resist stealing books. With the help of her foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with a Jewish man hidden in her basement. This extraordinary New York Times best seller is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. All are welcome to participate in this study. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

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: Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".

Music Notes

"God Loved the World" ELW 323 This anonymous German hymn text, based primarily on John 3:16, is perfectly paired with the English psalm tune **ROCKINGHAM OLD**. This hymn text first appeared in a large collection of hymns (1,313 total) published in 1778. August Crull (1854-1923) made the first English translation, published in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book* (Baltimore, 1889). August Crull was born in Germany, but spent most of his life in the United States. He began his studies at Concordia College, and was a graduate of Concordia Seminary. Edward Miller (1731-1807) included the tune **ROCKINGHAM OLD** in his collection *Psalms of David for the Use of Parish Churches* (London, 1790). In addition to being a publisher, organist, and writer, he was an accomplished flutist, and apparently played flute for the great George Frideric Handel.

"Lift High the Cross" ELW 660 was first published in 1916, and included eleven stanzas! Evangelical Lutheran Worship only includes five stanzas, with a rousing refrain. Stanley Osborne writes of this hymn: "The hymn has no room for weak resignation. It summons the mightiest and leaves them gazing upon a Love that gave its life to achieve life." American hymnologist Austin Lovelace says: "It is related to 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'For All the Saints' ELW 422 in its symbolism of marching in the ranks of soldiers of the crucified. It is the crucified Christ and his cross which we follow, and his love we proclaim to the world." The tune **CRUCIFER** was written by Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947) for this hymn text. **CRUCIFER** means "cross-bearer."

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" ELW 779 is from the pen of John Newton (1725-1807), and was first published in 1779. This text is a personal testimony of Newton's conversion experience, of a man whose early life on a slave ship was turned around by an "amazing grace" that "saved a wretch like me." Newton wrote six stanzas, the first four printed in our hymnal. Our fifth stanza, though joined to this hymn, is not by Newton, the writer unknown. Here is one of the additional verses, not often included in modern hymnbooks: "The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine; But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine." The tune **NEW BRITAIN** is another example of a fine Southern Harmony shape-note tune. It is also a pentatonic tune, meaning the melody has only five tones, plus its octave. The tune was first joined to "Amazing Grace" in William Walker's *The Southern Harmony* (New Haven, 1835), a collection of southern Appalachian folk tunes that came from English, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh sources.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 10, Harriet Tubman (1822-1913); Sojourner Truth (c.1797-1883), renewers of society

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland and remained a slave until about age thirty when, fearing she would be sold and moved further south, she escaped with the help of the Underground Railroad. After that, she helped about three hundred others to escape until slavery was abolished. After the Civil War, her home in Auburn, New York, became a center for women's rights and served the aged and the poor. Sojourner Truth, too, was born a slave in New York state. Her birth name was Isabella Baumfree. After slavery was abolished in New York in 1827, she was freed and, while working as a housekeeper, became deeply involved in Christianity. A number of years later, she discerned a call to become a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving. In later life, she also became a popular speaker against slavery and for women's rights.

March 12, Gregory the Great (c.540-604), Bishop of Rome

Gregory was born the son of a Roman senator, and later became the prefect of the city of Rome. He sold his vast property and devoted the proceeds to the relief of the poor. He founded seven monasteries, six in Sicily and one in Rome. In 590 he was elected Bishop of Rome. Gregory's work was extensive. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. He established a school to train church musicians. Gregorian chant is named in his honor. He wrote a treatise underscoring what is required of a parish pastor serving a congregation. He sent missionaries to preach to the Anglo-Saxons who had invaded England. He also organized distribution of grain during a shortage of food in Rome.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Jettie Leslie, 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.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests

(pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 3/17/2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart,

O God. (Ps. 51:10)

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Birthdays

3/12 Lee George

3/15 Cyndy Cox

3/14 Matt McCall



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

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