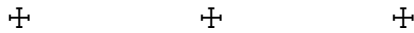




**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Our Mission**

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



**MARCH 17, 2024**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*In today's readings, God promises Jeremiah "a new covenant" in the future: a covenant that will allow all people to know God directly by the heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us through Christ into God's heart and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, fellowship, and service to praise God, uplifting one another and serving our neighbor.*

**GATHERING**

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

**Prelude** "Meditation on "Thee We Adore, O Savior"" for Horn and Organ, Op. 74

Charles Callahan

Philip Brindise, horn; 17th century French Painsong

*Please stand as able.*

**Processional Hymn** "Christ, the Life of All the Living" ELW 339

JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN

1. Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe;  
through your suff'ring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.  
thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
2. You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,  
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;  
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
3. Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,  
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you ever more;  
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,  
for the last triumphant cry, praise you ever more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Chatherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

*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.



**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

Kay Finlon, lector

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

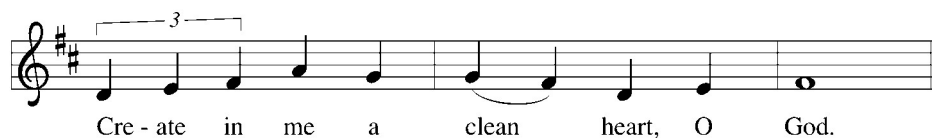
*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 51:1-12**

Christian Souza, Deleenn Rumbolo, cantors

Psalm 51:10 (John Helgen); Refrain from Psalter for Worship Year B © 2008 Augsburg Fortress



<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**Second Reading**

**Hebrews 5:5-10**

Kay Finlon, lector

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, “You are a priest

forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” <sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

*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 12:20-33**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*“Whoever serves me must follow me”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

“Seed That in Earth Is Dying” ELW 330

SAKORN SOM DOR I JORDEN

1. Seed that in earth is dying grows into ears of grain.  
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel turn into golden wine.  
God, through this mystery grant us faith in our deepest darkness,  
life in our night and death.
2. We were baptized in Jesus, into his death and grave,  
to resurrection's promise: praise and eternal life.  
Heaven's own praises begin here where you yourself are near us,  
deep in our night and death.
3. Seed that in earth is dying rises to bear much fruit.  
Christ, as we meet at your table, give us the bread of life.  
Lord, we do thank and adore you! Unceasing praise of the ages  
rises from night and death.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929 © Hedwig E. Burnbaugh; Music: Harald Herresthal, b. 1944 © Norsk Musikforlag.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The service continues with the Prayers.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

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

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

God of the covenant, by following Jesus you draw us into the community of the church. We give thanks for Jesus' call to discipleship; help us to remain faithful to him, always witnessing to the one who leads to eternal life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty and life. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of the natural world and human communities. Help us to see and embrace our role in sustaining and protecting the environment for future generations of all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peaceful human community where all people might share their gifts and offer the honor of the nations to you. Continue to raise up leaders who challenge oppression, expose corruption, and labor for social justice and human rights that all your children might know peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, with the hands of a potter, you create and restore us when we are broken by illness, trauma,

and grief. Bless and strengthen all who are sick and dying, and bless all caregivers with insight and compassion. Grant hope and peace to: Grey Hamilton, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, 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.**

God of eternity, you are present in this place. We give you thanks for the ministries of this congregation and the gifts of its people. We especially give you thanks for the gifts of musicians, artists, and teachers who uplift us with works of beauty and songs of praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give you thanks for the saints whose faith continues to inspire us, especially Patrick missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Bless and keep all missionaries and help us to see ourselves as heralds of your good news in this world. 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**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Tune by Frederick C. Maker

Setting for choir, horn and organ by Albert L. Travis

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day. Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross!*

*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.

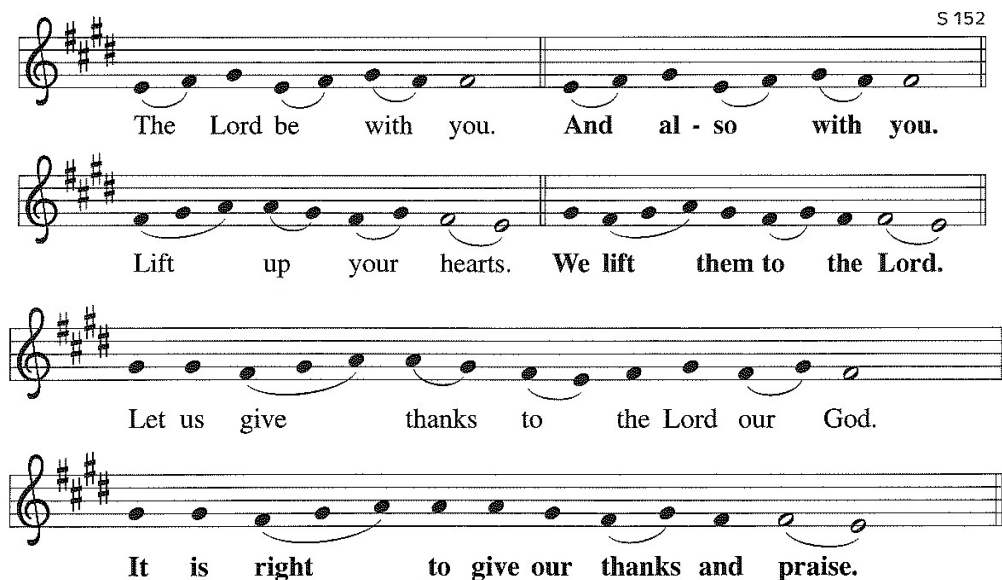
**Amen.**

## 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.

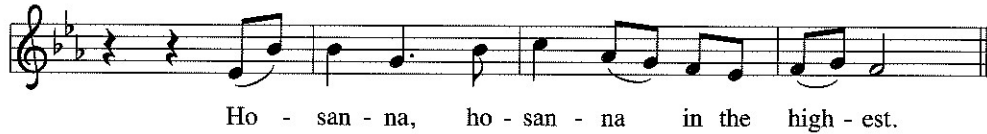
## Proper Preface

### 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.



### 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!

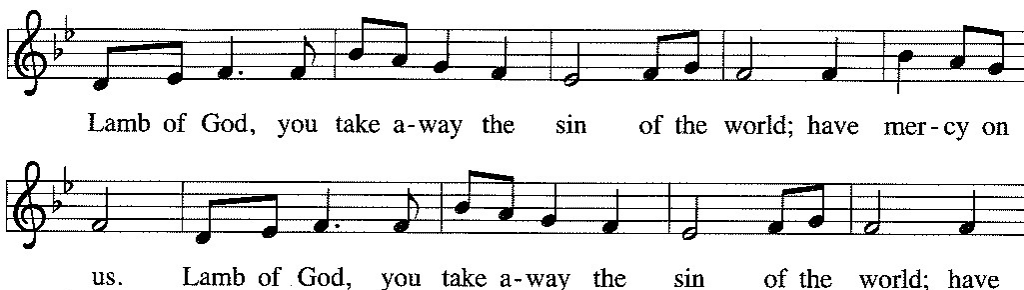
*Please be seated.*

### 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*





“A Lenten Meditation” for French Horn and Organ, OP. 72, No. 1 Charles Callahan  
Tune by Thomas Tallis, THIRD MODE MELODY “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

*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,

Shower you with mercy,

Fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335

NEAR THE CROSS

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there’s a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.

*Refrain:* In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me. *Refrain*
4. Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*

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

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Postlude

“Praeludium in G Minor for Organ” (excerpted)

Nicolaus Bruhns



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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding ; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Philip Brindise, French horn; Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Larry Dagenhart, Jr.; crucifer/acolyte: needed; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team B; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Jackie Ellington; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Karen & Kevin Feezor, A.J. Pridgen, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Susan League, Charles Lakeman

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## *Parish News*

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### **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.

#### **Holy Week & Easter Schedule**

3/28 Maundy Thursday 7 pm, Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar (also online)

3/29 Good Friday 7 pm (also online)

3/31 Easter Day, 8:30 am and 10:30 am, Holy Communion

**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.

**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 do-

nation 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*

**"Seed That in Earth is Dying"** ELW 330 was written in 1978 by Svein Ellingsen (b.1929), a leading hymn writer in Norway. Ellingsen had a major influence in the Nordic hymn renaissance of the 1960's, especially in his endeavors toward writing that reflects "the new simplicity". Many of his texts are used equally as hymns, devotional readings, and prayers. Paul Westermeyer, author of the *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* says of Ellingsen's writing: "Although he has written hymns for a great variety of subjects, the theme that runs through all of them is the gladness found in one's faith, even in times of great distress". German born composer Harold Herresthal (b.1944) wrote the music for this hymn. He is organist at a church in Oslo and a professor at the Norwegian Academy of Music. The tune **SAKORN SOM DOR I JORDEN** gets its name from the Norwegian text.

**"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"** ELW 335 This gospel hymn by American hymn writer Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915) was first published in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School* (New York, 1869). Even though she was blind by the time she was six weeks old, her lack of sight seemed to help her focus more fully on the spiritual aspects of life. This hymn gives us great insight into the power of the cross, especially from someone who was sightless: "Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me." Fanny pictures in her mind's eye the vision of Christ dying on the cross. The symbol of light is found in stanza two, with stanza four concluding with the commitment to watch and wait, hope and trust, forever. William H. Doane (1832-1915) wrote the tune **NEAR THE CROSS** and was a frequent collaborator with Fanny in providing tunes for her texts.

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

#### **March 17, Patrick, bishop and missionary to Ireland (c.390-461)**

Born in Roman Britain, the son of a local town council member, Patrick was kidnapped at age sixteen by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. During this captivity, he turned earnestly to God, escaping after six years, and returned to his family in Britain. He began to prepare for ordained ministry, acquiring an intimate knowledge of Latin. He later returned to Ireland as a bishop and missionary. Working from the north of Ireland, he made many missionary journeys with much success. In his autobiography he denounced the slave trade. Patrick's well-known baptismal hymn to the Trinity, "I bind unto myself today" (ELW 450), is appropriate during Lent as a call to return to our baptism.

#### **March 19, Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**

Joseph was the spouse of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Though the gospels are silent about much of Joseph's life, we know he was a carpenter by trade. Luke's gospel full shows him acting in accordance to civil and religious law by returning to Bethlehem for the census and by presenting Jesus in the temple on the fortieth day after his birth. Matthew's gospel tells of Joseph's trust in God, who led him through visionary dreams. Joseph is mentioned again at the start of Jesus' ministry in Luke (4:22), "Is not this Joseph's son?" The veneration of Joseph seems to have originated in the East, where the apocryphal 'History of Joseph the Carpenter' enjoyed considerable popularity.

#### **March 21, Thomas Cramner, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (1489-1555)**

Cramer was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, and ordained in 1523. He served as bishop to Taunton in England, and was chosen by King Henry VIII as archbishop of Canterbury, largely because he agreed to the king's divorce from Catherine of Aragon. His lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which in its revised form remains the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was eventually tried and executed for his support of the Protestant Reformation during the reign of Queen Mary.

#### **March 22, Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to the Americas (1703-1758)**

Edwards was a minister in Connecticut and has been called the greatest of the New England Puritan preachers. One of Edward's most notable sermons is titled, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." However, in the rest of his works and preaching, Edwards had more to say about God's love than God's wrath. His personal experience of conversion came when he felt overwhelmed with a sense of God's majesty and grandeur, rather than by a fear of hell. Edwards served a Puritan congregation, where he believed that only those who had been fully converted ought to receive communion. His congregation, however, thought otherwise. Edwards left that congregation and carried out mission work among the Housatonic Native Americans of Massachusetts. He became president of the College of New Jersey, which later became Princeton University.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

## St. Mark's Prayer List

Grey Hamilton, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, 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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

### Readings for 3/24/2024

#### Palm Sunday

John 12:12-16 (Palm Sunday)

Procession / Blessing of the Palms)

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

*Create in me a clean heart,*

*O God. (Ps. 51:10)*

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 15:1-39

### Birthdays

3/18 Neil Dixon

3/22 Mindy Curley

3/23 Deana Weckerle

3/24 James Conner



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

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Sue Wadgyman, Parish Administrator

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Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator

[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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