



MARK'S

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MARCH 24, 2024

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ the glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: we desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves often afraid, even denying Jesus. We wave palms in celebration as Christ comes to lead the world in humble service, yet we hesitate to follow him to his cross. In the Eucharist, Jesus gives us his body broken and makes a new covenant in his blood, forgiving our sins. We begin this holy week, the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work in Jesus Christ.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

“Meditation on ‘Beautiful Savior’”

Silesian folk tune

Setting for handbells by Cathy Moglebust

The congregation stands as the cross is carried into the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday Gospel procession.

The Palm Sunday Acclamation

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Palm Sunday Processional Gospel John 12:12-16

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!” ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing of the Palms

The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Entrance Processional

“Highland Cathedral”

Traditional piping tune
Dave McKenzie, Scottish Highland Piper

Processional Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (ELW 344)

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son,
now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*
2. The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *Refrain*
3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain*
4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*
5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

The presiding minister concludes the procession.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Musical Interlude

“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”

Tune HERZLIEBSTER JESU by Johann Cruger
 Setting for handbells by Lloyd Larson

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Meg Fielding, lector

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

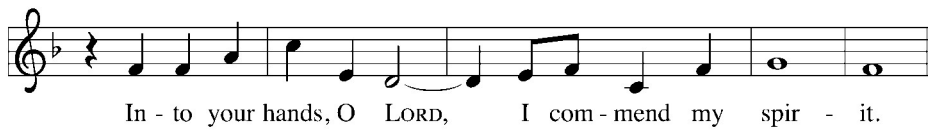
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 31:9-16

Christian Souza, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 31:5 (Mark Sedio); Refrain from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. ¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. ¹¹I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. ¹²I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. ¹³For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. ¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” ¹⁵My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Meg Fielding, lector

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

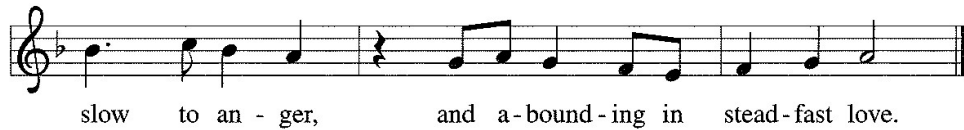
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

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





The Holy Gospel

Mark 15:1-39

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. ⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. ¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. ³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“He humbled himself”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338

ST. CHRISTOPHER

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, your 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.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869; Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

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

(Larry Dagenhart, Jr., 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.*

Triune God, on this holy day, churches around the world sing glad hosannas in praise of Christ the King. Embolden and strengthen your church in every land to empty itself of temporal power and authority that it might in every way serve the needs of all who suffer, walking humbly alongside Jesus Christ in this world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, thank you for all the gifts you have bestowed on us. Help us to be ever grateful for all that we have and deliver us from longing unnecessarily for what we do not. Help us to refrain from focusing on what may be unfair in our lives. Lead us toward putting the needs of others before our own selfish desires. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of Hosts, your Son came riding on a donkey, a sign of peace and humble service. Establish your rule, granting humility in the hearts of all leaders and governments; and through them, bring an end to wars, establishing lasting peace and justice among all nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord God, as we go about our daily lives, help us to see the world through the eyes of Jesus. Guide us in loving one another as you have loved us. Help us learn how to serve other people in ways that are helpful to them and pleasing to you. Grant hope and peace to the sick and dying; we especially remember: Julie Dornberger, Linda Wiland, Grey Hamilton, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, 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 grace, strengthen the ministries and people of this congregation, delivering us from evil and apathy. Bless our partners and all who come into our church seeking peace and healing. May everyone who seeks you here find your grace, that renewed in spirit, they might walk with you and live for others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord, on this Palm Sunday, be with us during Holy Week on these final steps of our walk to the cross. Continue to help us reflect on ourselves, make our hearts humble, find the courage to acknowledge our sins, and ask for forgiveness. 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

“Hosanna” for Double Chorus Edward W. Leinbach
Setting for choir, solo vocal quartet and organ by James Christian Pfohl

*Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed He that comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.*

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW 666 stanza one

WONDROUS LOVE

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt. Arr. 1955 Augsburg Publishing

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.

“Improvisation on ‘Go to Dark Gethsemane’”

Tune GETHSEMANE by Richard Redhead

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Tune HAMBURG by Lowell Mason

Setting for choir and organ by Gilbert M. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

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

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” ELW 347

GETHSEMANE

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgement hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
3. Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.
4. Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay;
all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854; Music: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Postlude

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Tune HYMN TO JOY by Ludwig van Beethoven

Dave McKenzie, Scottish Highland Piper

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Larry Dagenhart, Jr., prayer assistant; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; St. Mark's Handbell Choir; Dave McKenzie, Scottish Highland Piper; Amy Woodall, Christian Souza, Delenn Rumbolo, Nick Matherly, cantors and solo vocal quartet; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Mike Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team B; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes, Eddie & Carol Goodall; communion assistants: Flora Chance, Cliff Edahl, Jay Jacob, John Simon, Chris Stevenson; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Dawn Schwartz, Meg Fielding

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

Altar Flowers Today are given to the Glory of God in Memory of Pastor Michael Frye.

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 (Coffee & goodies served 9:30-10:15 am; Easter egg hunt 9:45am)

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: During Lent we focus on Jesus' path to the cross and his sacrifice for us. One of our small sacrifices during this period is our donations into a small Lenten box. Boxes were passed out last Wednesday and will be available after the

service again today. The letter with the boxes explains the recipient of this year's donations - REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. Infant care kits will be purchased for the little ones of our recently arrived refugees. Be sure to put your name on the box along with your envelope number if you have one. Donations can be made several ways - daily loose change, paper money, or simply write a check to St. Mark's and put it in the box. Keep the box where you can see it as a constant reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and the infants we will be helping. Please return to church before Easter.

The 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.

4/5 Carolina Pro Musica 7:30 pm, "A Global Experience" Travel the world through popular songs & dances of medieval time to present day. St. Mark's members and friends 50% off with SMHalfoff at <https://www.carolinapromusica.org/schedule>

REMINDER: To our able bodied members please park across Queens Rd in our church parking lot or on the side of the church along Edgehill Rd and come in side door saving the parking lot by the church for less able bodied members. Thank you.

Thinking of joining St. Mark's? Please see Pastor Tim to set up a time to talk. All people are welcome at St. Mark's!

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. You are invited to join the Faith Forum for lively discussions led by Larry Dagenhart, Jr. 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

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" ELW 344 has established its place as the traditional Palm Sunday processional hymn. It is based on the accounts of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem found in Matthew 21, and Luke 19, as well as portions of Psalms 24 and 118. This hymn was written by Bishop Theodulph of Orleans (c.760-821), a leading French theologian and poet of his time. We believe he may have written this hymn while imprisoned in the year 818, falsely accused for conspiring against King Louis the Pious. This is one of our oldest Latin hymns, and in original form included thirty-eight two line stanzas plus the refrain! John Mason Neale (1818-1866) translated eight stanzas from Latin into English, first published in 1851. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* prints his first five stanzas plus refrain. Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), a German pastor, cantor and teacher, wrote the tune VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN ("Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee") that we associate with this hymn.

"What Wondrous Love Is This" ELW 666 This anonymous folk hymn is from nineteenth-century America and is paired with the *Southern Harmony* (1835) tune **WONDROUS LOVE**. Each stanza presents a single thought, which is underscored by repetition. God's love is so great that he would give up his crown for a sinner's soul.

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ELW 338 Elizabeth C. Clephane (1830-1869) is the author of this Lenten hymn. She was a member of the Free Church of Scotland and devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick in her community. She was nicknamed "Sunbeam" to reflect her sunny personality and philanthropic work among the disadvantaged. This hymn was written shortly before her death and is a meditation on the cross and its importance in the faith of the believer. The numerous scriptural allusions are indicative of the poet's thorough knowledge of the Bible. The tune **ST. CHRISTOPHER** was composed for Clephane's hymn by Frederick Charles Maker (1844-1927) an organist and conductor in Bristol, England. Clephane's hymns were popularized in the United States by Ira Sankey, who collected gospel hymns and was the musical assistant of the American evangelist Dwight Moody (1837-1899).

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 24, Óscar Arnulfo Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, martyr (1917-1980)

Romero is remembered for his advocacy on behalf of the poor in El Salvador. Though originally a social conservative, after being appointed Archbishop of San Salvador, he developed into an outspoken social activist on behalf of the poor and oppressed. He and other priests and church workers were considered traitors for their bold stand for justice, especially defending the rights of the poor. After several years of threats to his life, Romero was assassinated while celebrating the eucharist in the chapel of Hospital of Divine Providence. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 24 as the "International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims" citing, in particular, the work of Archbishop Romero.

March 29, Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church (1771-1824)

Hans Nielsen Hauge was a Lutheran layperson who began preaching about "the living faith" in Norway and Denmark after a mystical experience that he believed called him to share the assurance of salvation to others. At the time, itinerant preaching and religious gatherings held without the supervision of a pastor were illegal, and Hauge was arrested several times. He also faced great personal suffering: his first wife died, and three of his four children died in infancy.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Julie Dornberger, Linda Wiland, Grey Hamilton, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, 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 3/31/2024

Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

Birthdays

3/24 James Conner

3/24 Taylor Abbasi

3/25 Keith Lindberg

3/25 Madden Weckerle

3/36 Rob Johnson

3/28 Jackie Harms

3/30 Evan Wenzel

3/30 Paula Connolly



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

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Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

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Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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