



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MARCH 3, 2024

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

When Jesus drove the moneychangers from the Temple, he was honoring the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me." Jesus was defending the worship of God alone, rejecting the profit-making idols that can become our gods. Paul also witnesses to the power of God in the cross of Jesus, which continues to reveal God's strength in weakness and God's wisdom in foolishness. In looking to the cross, we honor the God who calls us by name in Holy Baptism. Dying and rising with Christ, we are freed from sin to live out God's justice and mercy in our church, community, and the world.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Variations on 'Christ is Made the Sure Foundation'"

Diapasons - Cornet

Tune by Henry Purcell

Organ settings by Richard Proulx

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" ELW 645

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.
2. To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come with all your loving-kindness, hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.
3. Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
What they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
And hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.
4. Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Music: Henry Purcell, 1659-1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802-1868

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. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through 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

Exodus 20:1-17

Flora Chance, lector

¹Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 19

Christian Souza, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 19:8 (Lorraine Brugh); Refrain from Psalter for Worship Year B © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the words "The com - mand - ment of the LORD". The second staff contains the melody for the words "gives light to the eyes." The notes are as follows: Staff 1: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). Staff 2: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter).

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the

commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Flora Chance, lector

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Hope beyond ourselves”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Canticle of the Turning” ELW 723

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Irish traditional

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not
spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

3. From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev’ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev’ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Refrain

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

(Dave Dunlap, 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.*

Lord Almighty, you alone are God, and we thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Bless us your church to worship and serve you so that others will also know the joy of your presence in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, we pray for all who suffer because of war and conflict. Daily we see the misery and anguish in Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia and other places but so often our comfort, wealth and security insulate us from these tragedies. Teach us the compassion and understanding needed to end these wars. Grant wisdom and strength to all who are working to find solutions and encourage our leaders to overcome partisanship for the greater good of relieving suffering. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you continue to renew the cosmos and give life to this planet Earth. As we live with wonder at your creation, fill us with zeal to protect this world you have created from commercial exploitation so that all people, today and into the future, will rejoice that you have made heaven and earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, as spring draws nearer we must still acknowledge we have invisible enemies like flu, RSV, COVID and measles. Help us all to understand there are preventative measures, and where we do not, please guide doctors, nurses, and other caregivers in protecting, caring, and healing. Please be with the sick to ease their burdens, protect them, and reassure their families. Grant strength and hope to: Angie Blackwelder Malone, Greg Bruce, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Michael Frye, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Sarah Lindberg, Danye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ben Watson, Tina Wiland, Martha Stackel, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Carl Sepmeyer, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, Virginia Stackel, David Mathis, and Jay Harbinson. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of power, through the cross of Jesus you lead us from death to new life in the resurrection. As with the saints of every time and place, lead us through this life of suffering into everlasting life, and help us to be a light of hope to all whom we meet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heavenly Father, Jesus drove the scammers and profiteers out of the temple because they were taking advantage of those with less means or those who did not know better. Today those with similar intent hide behind all forms of modern technologies, but their intent is the same. Help us to recognize those that would take from us, the way Jesus recognized them in the temple, help us call them out, and help us stop them from their wrongdoing. 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

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Create in me a clean heart, O God!

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.

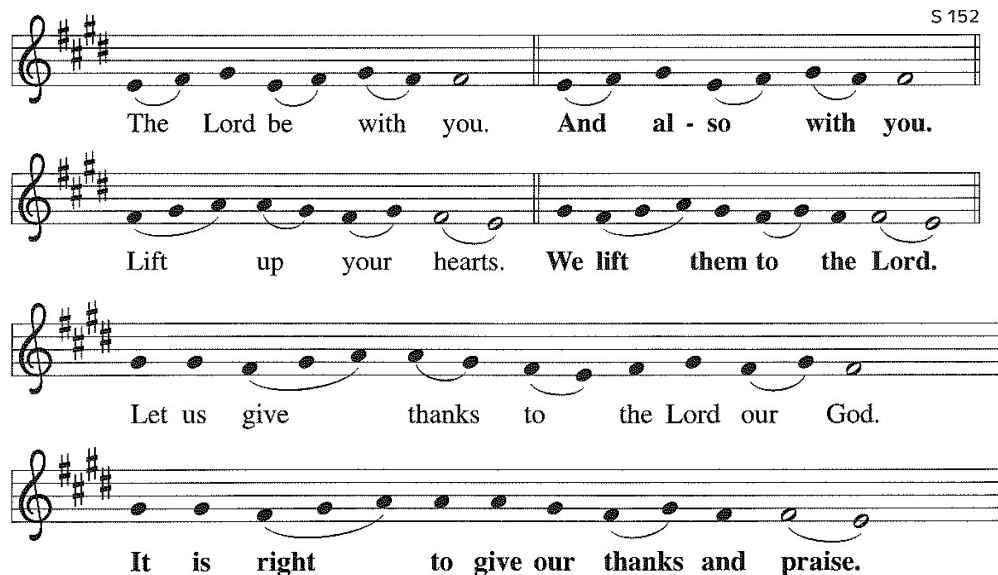
Amen.

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 WESTMINSTER ABBEY*

Tune by Henry Purcell; Organ setting by Charles Callahan

"If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments"

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter, that He may bide with you forever: Ev'n the Spirit of truth.

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

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” ELW 324

RATHBURN

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o’er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872; Music: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

DISMISSAL

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

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Toccata on ‘In the Cross of Christ I Glory’”

Tune by Ithamar Conkey
Organ setting by David Cherwien

✠ ✠ ✠

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: needed; lector: Flora chance; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding ; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Flora Chance, Charles, Susan & Michael Lakeman; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Alan harms, Joe Barrett; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Amy Woodall, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Lowell Engelhard; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team B; greeters: Joanne Marz, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Cliff Edahl, Karen & Kevin Feezor, Rebecca Huang; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Janice Miller, Diane Thomas

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 by Joann and Cliff Edahl and Virginia and Brendan Molan to the glory of God and in honor of Virginia Edahl's birthday.

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.

St. Mark's Men's Group will meet Saturday, March 9 at 9 am.

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

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

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

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

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. You are invited to join the Faith Forum for lively discussions led by Larry Dagenhart, Jr. through March. The class meets at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

Online worship is streamed live every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

Ushers for Sunday Worship The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the Church. Please volunteer by contacting the church office or John Simon.

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Family Ministry

Nursery: A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

Confirmation Class meets every Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship 2024

Sharing our gifts is important to St. Mark's ongoing mission. A pledge is a prayerful commitment to giving in response to God's grace. A pledge may be offered at any time, but pledges help a congregation establish a responsible budget for the coming year. Please consider making a financial

pledge to St. Mark's. Brochures are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



2024 Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

Social Ministry

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

LOAVES & FISHES (new name "Nourish Up") The baker's rack is a permanent collection location for **NON-BREAKABLE NON-PERISHABLE** food. And remember, all families need condiments, salt & pepper and sugar, along with basic food.

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Announcements

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall: Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m.; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m.; in Room 210: Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".

Music Notes

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" ELW 324 comes to us from the pen of John Bowring (1792-1872) first published in his book *Hymns: As Sequel to the Matins* (London, 1825). Like the famous hymn by Isaac Watts "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW 803, the text is based on a verse from Galatians 6:14 "May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ". Kenneth Osbeck writes in his collection "101 Hymn Stories" It is claimed by some writers that Sir John Bowring had visited Macao, on the South Chinese coast, and was much impressed by the sight of a bronze cross towering on the summit of the massive wall of what had formerly been a great cathedral. This cathedral, originally built by the early Portuguese colonists, overlooked the harbor and had been destroyed by a typhoon and left crumbled in its wake--except for one wall topped by the huge metal cross. The scene is said to have so impressed Bowring that it eventually served as inspiration for this beloved hymn". The tune **RATHBUN** was composed by Ithamer Conkey (1815-1867) in 1849, and was named for Mrs. Beriah S. Rathbun, a soprano soloist in his church in Norwich, Connecticut where he served as Organist and Choirmaster.

"Canticle of the Turning" ELW 723 This hymn is a paraphrase of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). Our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes seven settings of this canticle, this one included in the topical index "Justice, Peace" section of our hymnal. Rory Cooney (b. 1952), a composer and Catholic parish musician, is the author. Corey writes of this hymn: "I simply wanted to write a setting of the canticle that attempted to capture the revolutionary spirit of the gospel, of a God who 'pulls down the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly'." **STAR OF COUNTY DOWN** is a folk tune very popular in Ireland.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 7, Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

In the year 202 the emperor Septimius Severus forbade conversions to Christianity. Perpetua, a noblewoman, Felicity, a slave, and other companions were all catechumens at Carthage in North Africa. They were imprisoned and sentenced to death. Perpetua's father, who was not a Christian, visited her in prison and begged her to lay aside her Christian convictions in order to spare her life and spare the family from scorn. Perpetua responded and told her father, "We know that we are not placed in our own power but in that of God."

St. Mark's Prayer List

Angie Blackwelder Malone, Greg Bruce, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Michael Frye, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Sarah Lindberg, Danye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ben Watson, Tina Wiland, Martha Stackel, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Carl Sepmeyer, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, Virginia Stackel, David Mathis, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests

(pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 3/10/2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Birthdays

3/4 Virginia Edahl

3/5 Cliff Edahl

3/9 John Danello



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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