



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



NOVEMBER 17, 2024

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 33

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end of time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke us. Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand"

Southern Harmony Tune
Setting for handbells by Anna Laura Page

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"We Praise You, O God" ELW 870

KREMSER

1. We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er-take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963; Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

Please be seated.

Welcome

Jay Jacob, Council President

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,
our refuge, our delight,
our beginning and our end.

Amen.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,
**we confess that sin has taken hold of us
and we are complicit in its power.**
We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.
Unbind us and set us free.

**Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,
that we may live just and generous lives
for the good of your world
and the care of our neighbors,
following in the servant way of Jesus.**
Amen.

These words are trustworthy and true:
Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,
swallowing up death forever.
For his sake, you are ✠ forgiven
and God remembers your sin no more.
Let your heart be glad again,
and rejoice in your salvation.
Amen.

Greeting

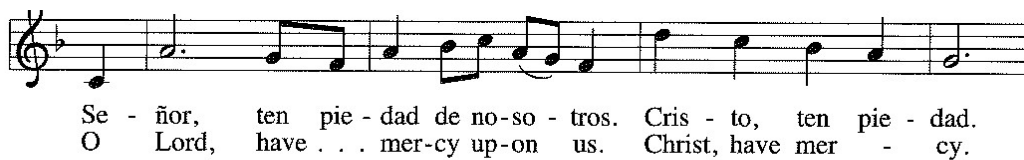
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Please stand as able.

Kyrie

“O Lord, Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting Eleven* from *All Creation Sings*

Jack Richardson, cantor



All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Music Interlude

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Tune DARWALL’S 148th by John Darwall
Setting for handbells by Ron Mallory

Temple Talk

“Stewardship 2025 Family Ministry”

Charles Lakeman

WORD

First Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

Flora Chance, lector

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 16

Jack Richardson, Taylor McNamara, cantors

Psalm 16:9 (William Beckstrand) from *Psalter for Worship Year B*; © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

The Psalm printed below (the NRSV) may be different than the translation sung by the cantors. As you listen to the psalm, please meditate on how different translations draw us more deeply into God’s word, enriching its meaning.

My heart is glad and my spir - it re - joic - es; my

bo - dy shall rest in hope.

¹Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. ²I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” ³As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. ⁴Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. ⁵The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ⁶The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. ⁷I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. ¹⁰For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. ¹¹You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

Flora Chance, lector

¹¹And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord

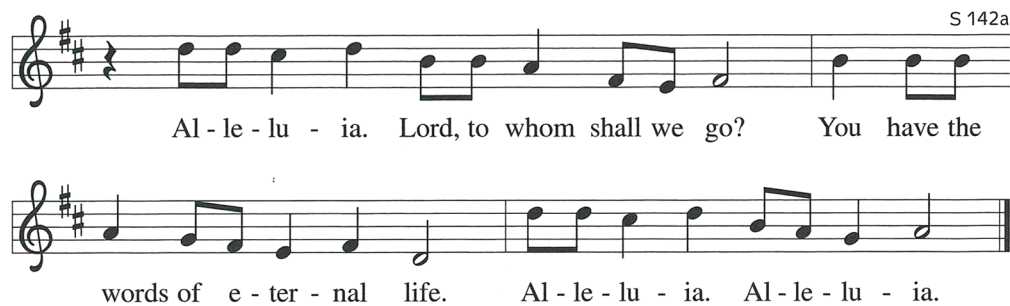
Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go”

Holy Communion Setting Three



The Holy Gospel

Mark 13:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” ³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them,

“Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Assurance in Times of Fear”

Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller


Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Though the Earth Shall Change” sing two times, from *All Creation Sings*

WE WILL NOT FEAR

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,
though the wa-ters rage, you, God, are here.
Though the na-tions war, though the peo-ples bat-tle,
though the em-pire fal-ters, we will not fear.

Please be seated.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

O God, in the washing of water you set us free from the power of sin and death. Unite all the baptized in the covenant you have made with us, as we strive for your justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

By your merciful might you sustain all creation. Stir us from complacency with the harm we inflict on the earth, and urge us to adopt sustainable ways of life that protect and restore our planet. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With a selfless power you protect all who take refuge in you. As nations rise against nations, defend all who are displaced or affected by war or violence. Empower all people and nations to pursue peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

In your presence you give fullness of joy. Care for all for whom joy feels distant. Be present with persons experiencing depression, anxiety, addiction, or any mental illness. Bring them healing and wholeness. We especially remember our church family in need of your healing and strength: Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Susan G., Ron and Nancy Stepp, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Patty Allen, Jarrod Braunschweiger, Julie Dornberger, Grey Hamilton, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Through the years you have gathered your church and this community for worship, fellowship, formation, and service. Enable us to look beyond the walls of our building to perceive where you are calling us forward. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With thanksgiving we remember Elizabeth of Hungary and all saints and angels who delight in your everlasting presence. As their lives inspire ours, provoke us always to love, holding fast to the confession of our hope in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, 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

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Based on HANSON PLACE & DEEP RIVER

Setting for choir and piano by John Carter

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod; with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of
God. Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down; grace our spirits with deliver, and provide a robe and crown.
Deep river, my home is over Jordan, deep river, I want to cross over into campground. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the
beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“When Peace like a River” ELW 785 stanza one

VILLE DU HAVRE

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion Setting Three

S 144a

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.

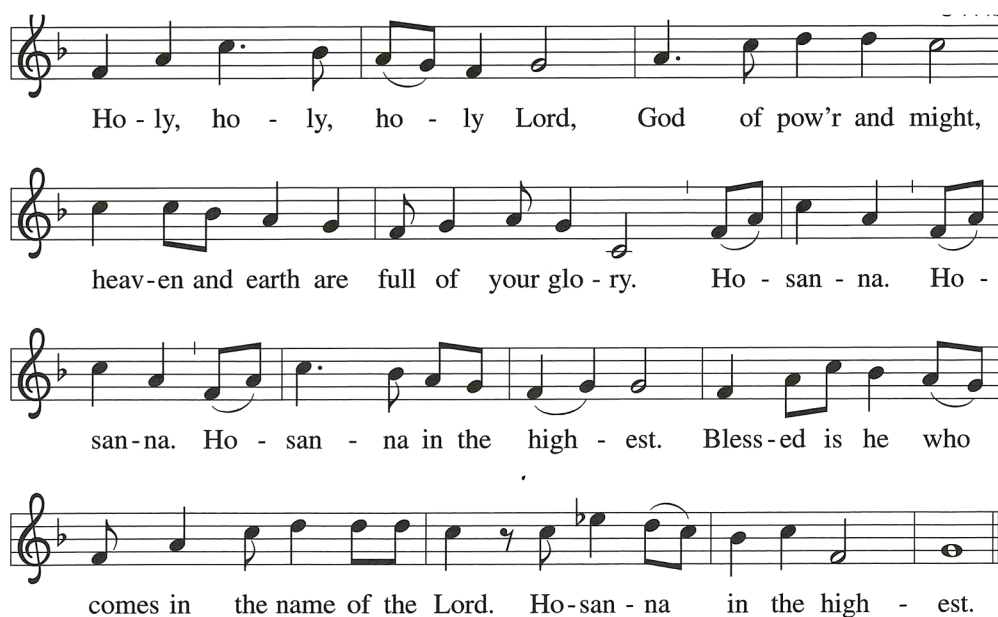
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Three



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. 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

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

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 Three*

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.

"Adagio and Pastorale" from *Partita on ST. ANNE*

Paul O. Manz

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. Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW 632

ST. ANNE

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.; Music: William Croft, 1678-1727-1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Toccata on ‘O God, Our Help in Ages Past’” from *Praise and Thanksgiving*

Organ setting by Michael Burkhardt



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Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Jay Jacob, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Eileen Dunlap, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion assistants: Cliff Edahl, Rebecca Huang, Janice Miller, A.J. Pridgen, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators :Meg Fielding, Diane Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; St. Mark's Handbells; Jack Richardson, Taylor McNamara, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Lowell Engelhard; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team A; greeters: Neil & Charlene Dixon, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Jay Jacob, Karen & Kevin Feezor, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators :Karen Feezor, Janice Miller, Carol Goodall



From the pastor -

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

During Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit who gathers, leads and enlivens the church's mission in this world. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are one in Christ, one body of many diverse people, gifts and voices. The church is not a building, but rather, a congregation of people gathered and enlivened by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of speaking with many and diverse voices the one gospel of God's love for this world in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is always seeking to lead us with vision and wisdom. I invite you to prayerfully consider how the Holy Spirit is alive in your life. How is God seeking to use your gifts through your hands and your voice at St. Mark's? We are all baptized into one body so that united in Christ, we might, in all of our diversity, welcome all people for Christ!

In the fellowship of the gospel,
Pastor Timothy McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

We welcome today's guest pastor! The Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller, Bishop (retired), served in five calls from 1971-2012, Teacher of religion and German at Martin Luther High School in Maspeth, New York; Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon, NY (1973-79), Pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Brooklyn, OH (1979-95), Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA (1995-2006), and President of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC (2006-12). From November 1, 2013 until August 31, 2014, he was the Interim Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod. Bishop Miller supports and encourages various ministries of social justice and compassion both during his time as a parish pastor and a synod bishop and now in retirement. He has said to those whom he is called to serve, "Jesus calls us to be in the middle of the world, calling out injustice

and striving for right relationships among all peoples of all faiths, nationalities, and ethnicities." Please take a moment to greet Bishop Miller after worship.

Pastor Tim is away on vacation 11/5-26. In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact St. Mark's Council President, Jay Jacob, 704-301-6915, or the church office 704-375-9185. Thank you.

Thanksgiving for Neighbors in Need: Nourish Up has provided groceries to **138,633** neighbors in Mecklenburg Co, surpassing the number we fed in all of 2023. With the busy holiday season still ahead **we need your help** to meet the increased need. We are especially in need of pantry staples such as these priority needs items: Frozen Turkeys, Canned Meat, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Pasta (canned or dry boxed). Donate food items directly to our Hunger Hub, 901 Carrier Drive. Volunteer Drivers are needed to deliver Thanksgiving to neighbors! Deliver groceries 11/18-27, turkeys and holiday sides, and/or deliver Meals on Wheels 11/25-27, to seniors and homebound at [Volunteer - Nourish Up](https://courishup.org/volunteer/) (<https://courishup.org/volunteer/>).

Poinsettias and Wreaths The cost will be the same as last year at \$12 per plant for honorium/memorial. In addition, someone may sponsor a door wreath with an honorium/memorial as well. The deadline for the Christmas Eve bulletin is Tuesday, 12/19. Order forms are in the Gathering Place.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Waldhorn German Restaurant on November 19th at 7:00 PM. Plan now to enjoy supper/dinner at an always-popular destination! Address: 12101 Lancaster Hwy, Pineville, NC 28134. Waldhorn has distinctive architecture that suggests "Germany". There is plenty of parking around the restaurant. The site is 0.7 mile south of NC-51 -- or 0.2 mile north of Carolina Place Parkway (Lancaster Highway called South Polk Street in Pineville and South Blvd in Charlotte). Gitta & Thomas Maier's family is offering our group a special menu that highlights archetypal German dishes. Gitta's family operated another "Waldhorn Restaurant" in Germany, so the name honors her parents and her original home. There are multiple German beers on draft. There is a Tuesday "Beer Club" for those interested. The entrées are reliably delicious! Sometimes a wandering accordion-player saunters by to increase the feelings of Gemütlichkeit! Favorites

during previous visits have included roast duck, wurst platters, beef roulade, Wiener Schnitzel, roast pork, ... the list is long! The sides add a splash of panache with red cabbage, potatoes, Spaetzle, and flavorful gravies. Come and join the fun, and bring friends and neighbors. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by the Sunday midnight closest before the dinner to confirm seating.

Theology on Tap Thursday, November 21 at 7 pm at Vaulted Oak Brewery located at 3726 Monroe Road Charlotte.

Ryo Terukina Piano Recital - 11/30 (4 pm, Choir Room) Mr. Terukina is a graduate of Shōwa Academia Musicae, Tokyo, Japan, with additional degrees from the Italian National Chesena Conservatory of Music in piano (2014) and Répétiteur (2017); and the Advanced Chamber Music Course at the Academia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Rome (2020). He was awarded first prize at the Salzburg Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, performing in the Mozarteum Auditorium (2016), and first prize at the Golden Classic Music Awards, performing in Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall (2017). In 2021, he released the digital album, "Piano Sonatas" (Orpheus Classical).

HANDEL'S MESSIAH will be presented by the UNC Charlotte Orchestra and University Chorale, Friday, December 6th 7:00 pm in our sanctuary. Sixty singers and forty-five instrumentalists from the music department at UNC Charlotte will present twenty-six selections from this monumental choral masterpiece. Our Director of Music Les Ackerman will serve as organist. Tickets are \$10, but St. Mark's members will be admitted free of charge.

LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT A service of readings and carols for the season of Advent will be presented on the Second Sunday of Advent, December 8th during our 10:30 am worship. St. Mark's Choir, organists Bibba Whitener and Les Ackerman, as well as trumpeter Gabriel Slesinger, will present anthems, hymns and carols, and instrumental selections for the season of Advent.



Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims Thank you to all for your donations. If you would like to help, please see the NC Synod's website.

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 discussion on the book of Acts. The class meets 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/>).

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

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.



Social Ministry

ROOM IN THE INN is just around the corner. We will be hosting 10 homeless men each Tuesday during January and February. Volunteers will be needed to supply DINNERS, BREAKFASTS and BAG LUNCHES. Especially needed will be NIGHT SITTERS and an evening VAN DRIVER to pick up our guests and bring them to the church. Look for more information and a signup poster in the gathering place soon. Each guest is given a plastic bag containing these items: men's deodorant, body lotion

suitable for men (no fragrances), lip balm, "travel size" toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, and a tissue packet. We are requesting donations of these items, along with bedtime snacks such as lunch sized bags of chips, pretzels, goldfish; granola bars, (preferably without nuts) and small bags of fruit snacks. REMINDER: We DO NOT NEED bars of soap, shampoo or conditioner as we have dispensers in the showers. We CANNOT offer mouthwash as ordered by Roof Above. A collection basket is in the hall across from the large conference room. Your help in all this will be much appreciated.

NOURISH UP (Loaves & Fishes) The need for assistance in many families goes on. ALL foods are welcome but some items you may not have thought of but are certainly needed and appreciated: ketchup, mustard, mayo, salt, pepper, sugar, flour, tea bags, instant coffee, pancake mix "complete", syrup and cornbread mix. Please make

sure all donations are NON-PERISHABLE and NON-BREAKABLE. The gathering place baker's rack is always waiting for your donations to those in our community in need. *"When I was hungry you gave me 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".



Advent & Christmas
at St. Mark's

12/1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT -
WITH ADVENT BAGS & ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET
12/6 UNCC CHORALE & ORCHESTRA - *MESSIAH* 7:00 PM
12/4, 12/11, 12/18 MIDWEEK ADVENT PRAYER
7 PM IN PERSON & ONLINE
12/8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - "LESSONS & CAROLS"
12/13 CAROLINA PRO MUSICA CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7:30 PM
12/15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
12/22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
12/22 QUEEN CITY RINGERS - CHRISTMAS CONCERT 5:00 PM
12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 8:30 PM
MUSIC BEGINS AT 8 PM
12/29 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 AM ONLY
1/5/2024 EPIPHANY SUNDAY
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Music Notes

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW 632 The great English hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748) published this text in 1719. Based on the first eleven verses of Psalm 90, Watts brought forth in his writing the themes of the greatness of God, the mortality of humanity, and the vastness of time. American Hymnologist Carlton Young writes: "God was present before the hills stood; God has been our shelter and guide, and continues to be our hope for the future." John Wesley (1703-1791) changed the original first word of Watts' text from "Our" to "O", feeling that it reached out to everyone and was more inclusive. The tune **ST. ANNE** was composed by William Croft (1678-1727) and originally wedded to a metrical setting of Psalm 42, but finally found its place with Watts' text in an 1814 publication.

"Though the Earth Shall Change" ACS 1035 This setting of a portion of Psalm 46, comes to us from the pen of Tom Witt (b. 1957) a musician at Holden Village Retreat Center in Chelan, Washington, and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. It is included in *All Creation Sings*. Witt is the composer of the tune **WE WILL NOT FEAR**. With this music being gentle and reflective, he encourages us to sing his "refrain" multiple times, to allow the meaning of the text to sink into our mind and soul.

"We Praise You, O God" ELW 870 was written in 1902 by Julia C. Cory (1882-1963) at the request of the organist J. Arthur Gibson of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. It was intended to "replace" the Thanksgiving hymn "We Gather Together" which he thought too "Old Testament, militaristic and unchristian". Cory's hymn was first sung on Thanksgiving Day in 1902, to the sixteenth century Dutch tune **KREMSER**. The tune is named after the Viennese musician Edward Kremser (1838-1914), and included in his publication *Sechs Altniederländische Volkslieder* (Vienna, 1877).

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

November 17, Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, (1207-1231)

This Hungarian princess lived her entire life in east-central Germany. Married to a duke, she gave large sums, including her dowry, for relief of the poor and sick. She founded hospitals, cared for orphans, and used the royal food supplies for the hungry. Though she had the support of her husband, after his death, she was driven out of the royal court. She joined the Franciscan order and continued her charitable work. Her lifetime of charity is remarkable when it is remembered that she died at the age of twenty-four.

November 23, Clement, Bishop of Rome (died in 99)

Clement was the third bishop of Rome, serving at the end of the first century. He is remembered for a letter he wrote to the church at Corinth, still having difficulties in spite of Paul's two canonical letters. "Love...has no limits to its endurance; bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile or arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others. Clement's letter is also a witness to an early understanding of church government and the way each office in the church works for the good of the whole.

November 23, Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr (1891-1927)

Miguel Agustín Pro grew up among oppression in Mexico, where revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the rich. He was a Jesuit priest who served during a time of intense anticlericalism, and therefore carried out much of his ministry in private settings. Miguel and his two brothers were arrested, falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a car of a government official, and executed by firing squad. Just before the guns fired, he yelled, "Viva Cristo Rey!" meaning, "Long live Christ the King."

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Susan G., Ron and Nancy Stepp, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Patty Allen, Jarrod Braunschweiger, Julie Dornberger, Grey Hamilton, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests
(pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 11/24/2024

Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

Birthdays

11/18 Larry Lippert

11/19 Carol Goodall

11/19 Nancy Kutscher



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

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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