



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



FEBRUARY 2, 2025

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY / LECTIONARY 4

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The prophet Jeremiah was appointed to speak God's word of truth to the nations. In the same prophetic tradition, Jesus spoke God's word of truth to those in his hometown, revealing their hardness of heart. Paul reminds us of faith, hope and love, and that "the greatest of these is love." We are to be messengers of the good news of God's love for all people.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Adagio" from *Sonata in F Major for Violin*, HWV 370

George Friderick Handel; Dustin Wilkes-Kim, violin

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" ELW 836

HYMN TO JOY

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adpt.

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 creates us, redeems us,
and calls us by name.

Amen.

Remembering the waters of Holy Baptism, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.**
**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.**

Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In ✠ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

Greeting

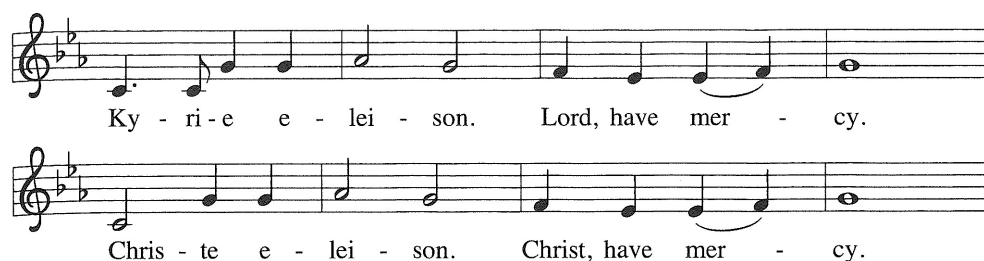
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Please stand as able.

Kyrie

“Kyrie eleison” from *All Creation Sings*, Holy Communion Setting Twelve





Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Flora Chance, lector

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.” ⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

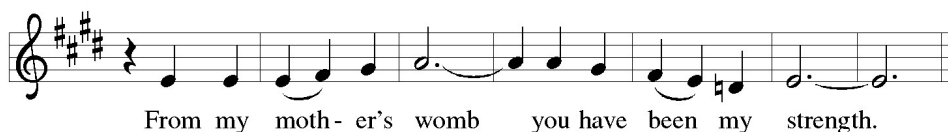
Psalm 71:1-6

Nick Matherly, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 71:6 (Daniel Kallman) from *Psalter for Worship Year C*; © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

The canticle 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.



¹In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. ²In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. ³Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. ⁴Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. ⁵For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth. ⁶Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Flora Chance, lector

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know

only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

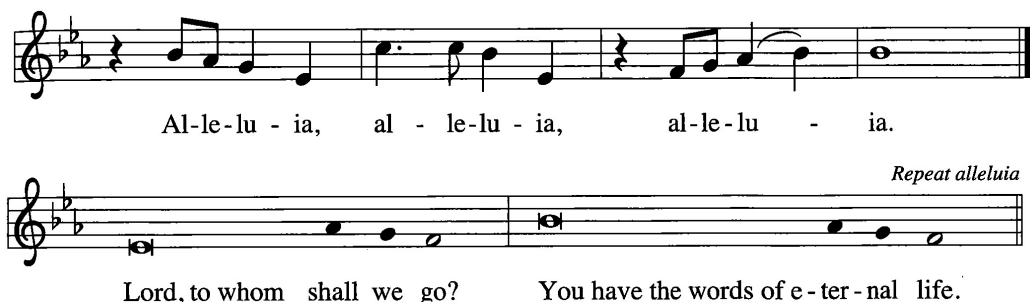
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go” from *ACS Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



The Holy Gospel

Luke 4:21-30

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Without love, I gain nothing”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“He Comes to Us as One Unknown” ELW 737

REPTON

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with-in a heart of stone, or shriv-eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with-in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip-tures shown, as yet un-seen, but



dark-ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with-in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Recognition of John Graham and Service to Christ at St. Mark's

Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege today to recognize John Graham, and give thanks for his many years of service to this church, its ministries, and the care and upkeep of God's house. For many years John has worked, often unseen in the care and repair of our church home. John also served as a Head Usher, drove the church bus; served on the Property Committee, even painting on what used to be called "All Paint's Days." Together with Marilyn, they both served together as Youth Group chaperones; went on youth retreats; welcomed church visitors into their home, and have incarnated the strength and love of Jesus to many in this congregation during both good and challenging times. John and Marilyn, we are grateful for your faithful witness to the love of Jesus Christ!

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Service

Let us pray. O God of love, your Son washed the feet of his disciples as a sign of servanthood and selfless service. We give you thanks for the many ways, known and unknown, that John and Marilyn Graham have humbly served Jesus Christ and his body the church at St. Mark's. Strengthen and uphold John and Marilyn in their faith as they continue to follow Christ's call, loving and serving you, the church, and all people of this world. Like them, help us all to do faithfully those deeds of love and mercy expected of your servants, that through us, the light of your love might shine brightly in this world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Presentation on behalf of the Property Committee and St. Mark's

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.

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

Melissa Smith, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

With the spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you called Jeremiah, a reluctant prophet, to speak your truth to power. Help your church to listen to your call and proclaim your message with his same courage and conviction - even when it is difficult. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creator God, your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us the humility to acknowledge the ways we have harmed creation, and grant us the courage and wisdom to implement public policies and strategies to make effective change so that all lands prosper and all living things benefit from your abundant grace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, you have shown us the way of love through Jesus Christ. Help us, our community, our nation, and our leaders, to cultivate love that is patient, kind, and enduring. Grant us the grace to reflect your love in all that we do and say. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, open your hands to heal and sustain all who suffer from loneliness, illness, addiction and grief. Send your Spirit of comfort to the dying and give strength to all medical teams and caregivers. May all who cry out to you know your enduring faith, hope, and love; especially, Mike Doyne, Lisa Wiedemer, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Susan G., Ron and Nancy Stepp, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Mark Thornton, Patty Allen, Jarrod Braunschweiger, Julie Dornberger, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Danyne 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. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of our church community. May we love, support, and serve one another in your name. We pray for the leaders of our church, especially our bishops, Elizabeth and

Timothy. Let them continue to be a beacon of hope and a source of healing for all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Eternal God, you are Lord of all and we give you thanks for the faithful saints you have raised up in every land and language. May their example continue to bear witness to us that proclaiming your good news of love for all people, we too might inherit eternal life. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promises are revealed among all peoples, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
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

“One Faith, One Hope, One Lord”

Craig Courtney

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died. One voice, one song we lift in praise to Him who was and is and shall be evermore. There is one body, one Spirit, as you were called to one hope. One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, above all, and through all, who is in you all. Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts, we are given to each other for the unity of faith, that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ. One faith, one hope, one Lord, one God!

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Shine, Jesus, Shine” ELW 671 stanza one

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;

blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth
you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

Text & Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950 © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.

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” 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

Come to God's table.

There is a place for you and enough for all.

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

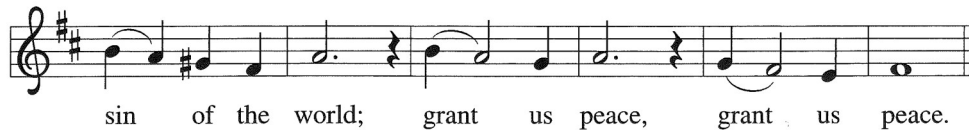
"Lamb of God" from *Holy Communion Setting Four*

S 154

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



“Brother James’ Air”

James L. Macbeth Bain
Setting for violin by Gordon Jacob

Communion Anthem

“The Gift of Love”

English folk melody O WALY WALY

Setting for choir, piano and violin by Hal H. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv’n love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, spirit come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole. O come, spirit, come, let inward love guide ev’ry deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen, amen, 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. We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
✠ bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW 631

HYFRYDOL

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Allegro” from *Sonata in F Major for Violin*, HWV 370

George Friderick Handel



This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayers assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer: Andrew Puky; acolyte: Ella Puky; lector: Clara Chance; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Jay Jacob, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes, Eddie & Carol Goodall; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Karen & Kevin Feezor, Susan Lakeman, John Simon; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Carol Goodall; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Justin Wilkes-Kim, violin; Nick Matherly, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Lisa Barnette; crucifer: Riley Smith; acolyte: TBD; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team A; greeters: Patrick & Rebecca Huang, Dale & Mary Lou Hopp; communion assistants: Janice Miller, Betsy Wenzel, Chris & Palmer Stevenson, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Alan Harms



From the pastor -

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

The season of Epiphany is four to nine weeks (depending on the date of Easter), lasting from the Feast of Epiphany (January 6) through the day before Ash Wednesday (this year, March 5). The season of Epiphany as a whole focuses upon the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ. At Epiphany, Jesus' birth is announced through the Magi to the nations, and the season continues to witness to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, his baptism, the calling of his disciples, and his proclamation of the good news. The focus of this season is ever outward toward the world and all nations, revealing the scope of our proclamation and work as modern-day Christians. On the final Sunday of this season, The Transfiguration (March 2), we see the fullness of Christ's divinity revealed in his humanity, also revealing the gift of his Spirit dwelling in us. Epiphany is a season in which we respond in faith and service to Jesus Christ, as his contemporary disciples and messengers, always moving ever outward with faith active in love.

In the grace and peace of Christ,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Altar Flowers Today are given in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Sehorn and Mr. & Mrs. Onree Crocker by Tom & Kay Sehorn, Matt & Ashley Frusti, and Bryan & Shelley Ashcroft.

Souper Bowl of Caring 2025 Help "Tackle Hunger" in our community by donating non-perishable food items for the hungry in our community, through Sunday 2/9.

ROOM IN THE INN needs a few more toiletries for our overnight guests to make it to the end of the season. Requesting individually wrapped toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste in its' box, travel size body lotion for men, and chapstick. Put all

donations in the basket across from the large conference room. Thank you for your support

Room in the Inn volunteers are needed! Please sign up in the Gathering Place.

2025 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Space. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please call the church office.

St. Mark's Men's Group meets every month on the second Saturday at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Join us February 8!

Love Circle Wednesday, 2/12 at 11:00 am in the Large Conference Room. Join us!

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Aroma Indian Restaurant on 18 February, 2025. Aroma is "proudly the largest Indian restaurant in the Greater Charlotte Area with authentic Indian flavors and exquisite ambiance." Dining at Aroma provides an experience, not just a meal. Aroma is in the Red Stone Complex, beside the Cinemas: 9648 Red Stone Dr, Indian Land, SC 29707. Head south on US-521 (Johnson Rd), turn left at either the SC-160 intersection (and work your way behind Reid's), or you can turn left at the first traffic light after the SC-160 intersection. Aroma's cuisine reflects a wide range of the various culinary regions of the Indian sub-continent. We often order extra as take-out for the next day's meal. There also is full bar service. Spice levels are adjusted to personal preference (if you want super mild, you must say so, since this will limit some selections). The staff courteously helps with selections. Mark your calendars for a scrumptious feast and join the fun at Aroma. Tom & Judy Tolbert

Theology on Tap Thursday, February 20 at 7 pm at Open Tap at 7p located at 5010 Carmel Center Drive 28226. Everyone is welcome!

Save the Date! The Congregational Life Committee is again hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00 pm. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us! More details will follow.



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 YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutheranchlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), and 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

Please prayerfully consider your 2025 pledge to Christ's mission at St. Mark's. Your pledge is important to St. Mark's mission and may also be offered at any time. 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.

2025 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

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".

Music Notes

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW 631 This hymn was first published in 1747 by the great English hymn writer Charles Wesley (1707-1788), and is considered one of his most beloved hymns, perhaps only sharing highest popularity with "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" ELW 270, and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" ELW 373). The idea for the hymn was taken from a popular song by the poet John Dryden, "Fairest isle, all isles excelling." Austin Lovelace writes of this hymn: "Its theme is the great thread of divine love which runs through all of Wesley's hymns. After a prayer addressed to Christ to dwell within our lives, the hymn turns to the theme of sanctification--God's 'great salvation' is sufficient to deliver a Christian from the power as well as from the guilt of sin (2 Corinthians 5:17). Thus we are 'going on to perfection,' being 'changed from glory into glory' (2 Corinthians 3:18)." Wesley's hymn is beautifully paired with the Welsh hymn tune **HYFRYDOL**, which means delightful, beautiful, sweet and melodious.

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" ELW 671 This hymn was first included in our denominational songbook *With One Voice* (1995), and then included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006). Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) wrote both the hymn text and its music. Kendrick is the son of a Baptist minister, and was born and raised in England. He studied to be a teacher, but in 1972 he became a contemporary folk-rock singer and songwriter who got his training in evangelistic coffee bars. He is part of the leadership team at his church Ichthus Christian Fellowship in London. As is typical of this style of a popular solo song, the refrain has a higher tessitura (vocal range) than the two stanzas.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

February 2, The Presentation of Our Lord

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophet named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child and his words have become the "*Nunc dimittis*" ("Now you dismiss") sung after Holy Communion, describing Jesus as "light for the nations."

February 3, Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden (801-865)

"The Apostle of the North," Ansgar was a monk who led a mission to Denmark and later to Sweden, where he built the first Christian church. His work ran into difficulties with the rulers of the day, and he was forced to withdraw into Germany. In 832 he was appointed bishop of Hamburg, and in 848 of Bremen. In 852 Ansgar returned to Birka in Sweden and worked to establish good relations with King Olaf I. He later helped consecrate the first bishop of Sweden, Gautbert.

February 5, The Twenty-Six Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

The "Twenty-Six Martyrs of Japan" were crucified on this date for their Christian faith by the feudal government of Japan on Nishizaka, a hill in Nagasaki. Earlier in 1549, Jesuit missionaries, led by Francis Xavier, introduced Christianity to Japan. However, rivalry between Jesuits and other monastic orders led to tension with the feudal government. Coupled with the tensions of trade and diplomacy between Japan, Portugal and Spain, Christianity was outlawed in 1614 and expelled from Japan beginning in 1633 with a series of expulsion edicts. The martyrs included twenty Japanese Christians and six foreign Christians, both lay and ordained. They are remembered on this date in Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. The edict against Christianity was finally lifted in 1872 due to diplomatic pressure by western governments.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Mike Doyne, Lisa Wiedemer, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Susan G., Ron and Nancy Stepp, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Patty Allen, Jarrod Braunschweiger, Julie Dornberger, 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 2/9/2025

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary 5

Isaiah 6:1-8[9-13]

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Birthdays

2/3 Scott Howarth

2/3 Charles Lakeman

2/6 Charlotte Dixon



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

les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgyman, Parish Administrator

admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Elaine Johnson,

Financial Administrator

finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | saintmarkscharlotte.org | 704.375.9185