



## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



**FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY / LECTIONARY 7**

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

*Love. Do good. Be merciful. Joseph lived God's love and mercy that reconciled him with his brothers. Jesus lived God's love and mercy, always doing good for others, even forgiving his enemies. God's love and mercy are unconditional, and God calls us to act with this same love and mercy, even toward our enemies. We love expecting nothing in return, yet always trusting that God's love will grow around us.*

### GATHERING

*The congregation is invited to join in the **BOLD** responses.*

#### Prelude

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Tune HOUSTON by Kathleen Thomerson

Setting for handbells and flute by Cathy Moglebust

*Please stand as able.*

#### Processional Hymn

"All Creatures Worship God Most High" ELW 835 Stanzas 1-4 & 6

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1. All creatures, worship God most high!  
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain  
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;  
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. All who for love of God forgive,  
all who in pain or sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the tears:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6. O sisters, brother, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623; Text 1997 Augsburg Fortress

*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

“As the Deer”

Martin J. Nystrom



As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af-ter you.



You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship you.



You a-lone are my strength, my shield, to you a-lone may my spir-it yield;



you a-lone are my heart's de-sire, and I long to wor-ship you.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Music Interlude

“Wash O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

Tune BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp  
Setting for handbells by Kevin McChesney

## WORD

### First Reading

**Genesis 43:3-11, 15**

Karen Feezor, lector

<sup>3</sup>But Judah said to him, “The man solemnly warned us, saying, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’ <sup>4</sup>If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food; <sup>5</sup>but if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, ‘You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.’” <sup>6</sup>Israel said, “Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?” <sup>7</sup>They replied, “The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, ‘Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?’ What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, ‘Bring your brother down?’” <sup>8</sup>Then Judah said to his father Israel, “Send the boy with me, and let us be on our way, so that we may live and not die—you and we



those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. <sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

*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*

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Repeat alleluia*

### The Holy Gospel

**Luke 6:24-38**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th chapter.*

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. <sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

#### Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

### Sermon

*“Love your enemies, do good, be merciful”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

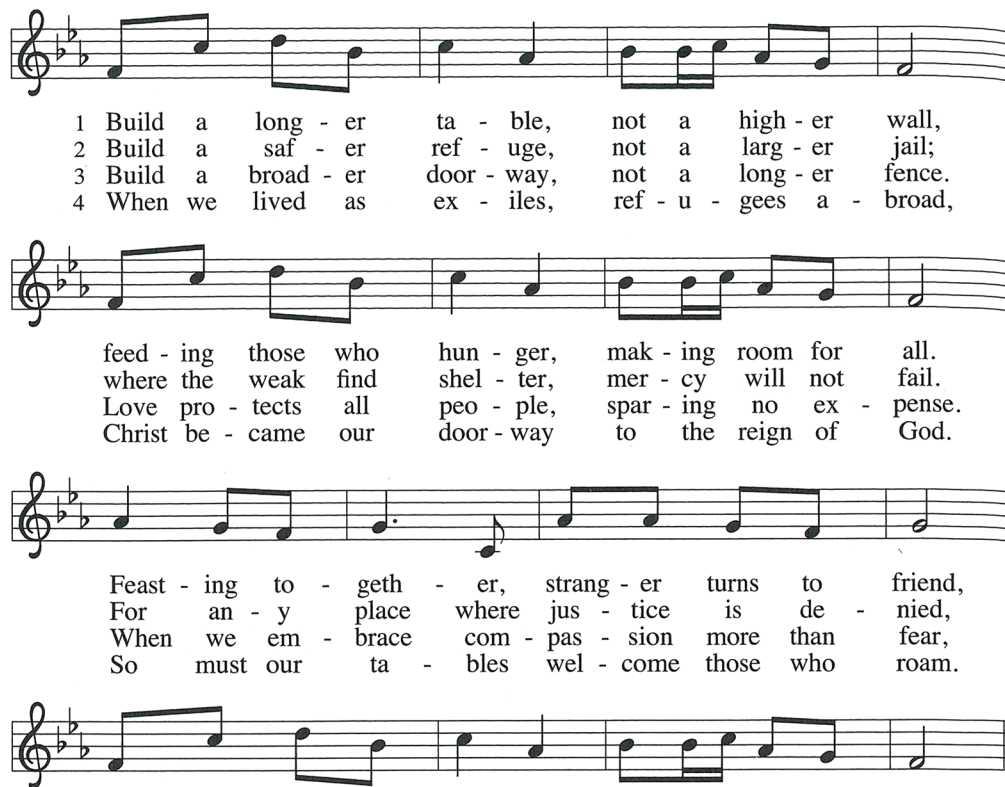
*Please stand as able.*

## Hymn of the Day

“Build a Longer Table” ACS 1062 from *All Creation Sings*

NOEL NOUVELET

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984 © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: French carol



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,

feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.

Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.

Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

*Please be seated.*

### Holy Baptism and Reception of New Member

Baptisms of William Jordan Eason and Willa Page Eason

Reception of New Member by Transfer, Kristen Ruth Eason

#### **Presentation**

*The candidates for baptism and sponsors gather at the font,  
and the pastor addresses the assembly.*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to a new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*The sponsors present the candidate.*

We present William Jordan Eason for Holy Baptism.

I present Willa Page Eason for Holy Baptism.

*The pastor addresses the candidate for baptism.*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, William Jordan do you desire to do be baptized into Christ?

**I do.**

*The pastor addresses the parents.*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

**I do.**

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn and trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

**I do.**

*The pastor addresses the sponsors.*

Do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**I do.**

*The pastor addresses the assembly.*

People of God, do you promise to support William Jordan and Willa Page and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

**We do.**

### ***Profession of Faith***

*The pastor addresses the candidates. The assembly may join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

*The pastor addresses the candidates, sponsors and assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

### ***Thanksgiving at the Font***

*The pastor leads the thanksgiving.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

### ***Baptism***

William Jordan / Willa Page, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The pastor continues.*

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the pastor prays.*

Sustain William Jordan / Willa Page with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**



*The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.*

William Jordan / Willa Page, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

### **Welcome**

*Presentation of the Baptismal Candle*

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The pastor addresses the assembly.*

We welcome Kristen Ruth Eason into the body of Christ at St. Mark's by transfer from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Edina, MN.

Let us welcome the newly baptized, and Kristen Ruth Eason as members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative redeeming word to all the world.**

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession.*

*Please be seated.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Michael Thompson, 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.*

God of eternal life, we are grateful for the physical gifts that You have blessed us with - our bodies, our senses and our minds. They give us the ability to experience and appreciate the splendor of Your creation and come together as one body in Christ to give thanks and celebrate the ultimate gift - eternal life with You. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Creator God, during this season, fields lie dormant as we anticipate the new life of spring. Help us each day to live raised to new life in Christ's resurrection that we might act through your life-giving Spirit protecting and sustaining all that has life in this world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of patience, as we see and experience injustice, corruption, malice and greed in our daily lives, remind us to place our trust in You. When we commit our way to You, we know that You will make Your righteous rewards shine like the dawn, and we will dwell in the land that You created and enjoy safe pasture there with You for all eternity. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy Comforter, you have given us a physical body that the spiritual body of your Son might dwell in us. Hear the cries of all who suffer in pain, fear, despair, and loneliness. Grant compassion and insight to medical providers, therapists, and emergency teams as they care for so many. Enfold our extended church family in your loving care, especially: Satoko Yamada, John Simon, Judy Cox, Mike Doyne, Lisa Wiedemer, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, 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.**

God of mercy, we are quick to strike back at those who harm or ridicule us. So often, our thoughts and actions turn to vengeance, and we forget how forgiving You are of us in our constant state of sin. Help us find the same level of understanding and mercy for others that You so freely grant to us. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the enduring witness of the saints who loved, did good, and were merciful to others; we especially remember Polycarp of Smyrna, whose commemoration is today. Like him may we stand firm, faithfully serving Christ our Lord and Savior that we might be raised with him to 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** "Prayer of Saint Francis" Allen Pote

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord. Where there is doubt, let there be faith. Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there's despair let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, let there be light. Where there is sadness, let there be joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. For it is in giving that we receive, and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Amen.*

*Please stand as able.*

**Offertory** *(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)*

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" ELW 884

OLD HUNDREDTH

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## 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



## 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.

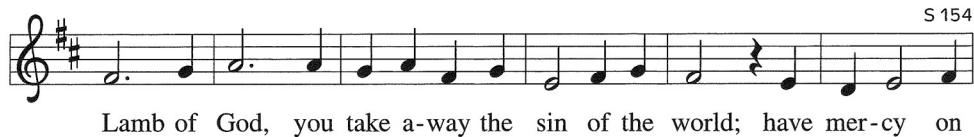
*Please be seated.*

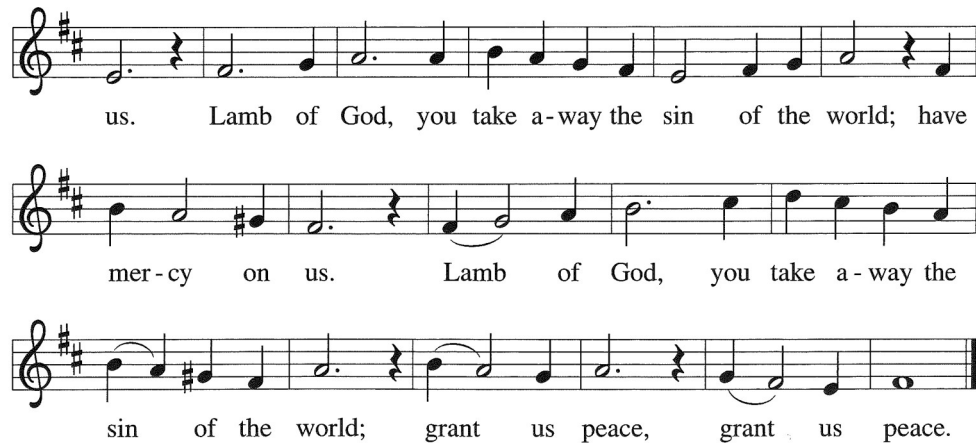
## Distribution of Holy Communion

*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*





“Andante Cantabile” for flute and piano

Thomas Schudel

## Communion Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” ELW 656

DENNIS

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; Music: Johann G. Nageli, 1771-1836, adapt.

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
2 Be-fore our Fa-ther's throne we pour our ar-dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu-tual woes, our mu-tual bur-dens bear,  
4 From sor-row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
the u-ni-ty of heart and mind is like to that a-bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.  
and of-ten for each oth-er flows the sym-pa-thiz-ing tear.  
and per-fect love and friend-ship reign through all e-ter-ni-ty.

*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**      “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” ELW 707

HYFRYDOL

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

1. Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,  
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice;  
and with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand  
to the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.
2. Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly, freely, of your own.  
With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone  
till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe  
that more happy and more blessed 'tis to give than to receive.
3. Wondrous honor you have given to our humblest charity  
in your own mysterious sentence, “You have done it all to me.”  
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry-in the least, your face we view,  
saying by your poor and needy, “Give as I have giv’n to you.”
4. Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,  
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust you boldly, hope, to stay your souls on you:  
but, oh, best of all your graces, with your love our love renew.

**DISMISSAL**

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**Postlude**      “Toccata” from Variations on ‘Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow’

Tune OLD HUNDREDTH; Organ Setting by Mark Thewes



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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Jay Jacob, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Dave & Eileen Dunlap, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Virginia Molan, A. J. Pridgen, Tom Puky, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Carol Goodall, Dawn Schwartz; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; St. Mark's Handbells, Andrea Long, flute; Jack Richardson, Kate Suchanek, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: TBD; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team B; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Karen & Kevin Feezor, A.J. Pridgen, John Simon; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Susan League, Charles Lakeman

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## *Parish News*

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### **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 honor of the occasion of Judy Tolbert's birthday today.

**Baptism Today (10:30):** With joy we welcome the Eason family into Christ's body the church, Jordan

and Willa Page through Holy Baptism, and Kristen by transfer. May God bless Jordan, Kristen and their daughter Willa Page in their new journey with Jesus Christ at St. Mark's. Jordan and Kristen's sponsors are Larry and Jenny Dagenhart, and Willa's sponsor is Laura Huepenbecker. Please take a moment to welcome the Eason family!

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** 3/4 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

#### **Lenten Schedule**

Ash Wednesday 3/5 Imposition of Ashes 12:15 pm and 7 pm (and online).

Lenten Wednesday Suppers, 6 pm-6:45 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning 3/12.

Lenten Midweek Prayer, 7 pm (in-person and online), beginning 3/12. Make Lent a time of prayerful renewal.

**The St. Mark's Book Study Group's** next meeting is on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our selection is Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her 18-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over 30 years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. Now, Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late. All interested persons are invited to join us for this study. For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.



### **Carolina Pro Musica in Concert 2/28/25 7:30 PM**

"Celebrating Scarlatti" Alessandro Scarlatti, who lived until 1725, is credited with establishing the Neopolitan style of music including opera overtures, forerunners of the symphony. He wrote hundreds of cantatas which served as models for others, too. Celebrate his life. Half price tickets for SMLC using code StMarksHO at <https://www.carolinapromusica.org/schedule>

**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! Please copy the link to your browser or call the church office to sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-54863812-shrove>

**Charlotte Flute Association Recital Heads Up!** Sunday, March 9 at 2:30 PM. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome!



**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. 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

**"All Creatures, Worship God Most High"** ELW 835 This hymn of praise was written in 1225 by one of the most fascinating individuals in our church history, Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). He was a mystic, founder of the Franciscan monastic order, and spent a good portion of his life as an evangelist, preaching and helping the poor of Italy. It is even said he preached to the birds, and they listened! The following was written in tribute to St. Francis: "Saint Francis came to preach-with smiles he met the friendless, fed the poor, freed a trapped bird, led home a child. Although he spoke no word-his text, God's love, the town did not forget". St. Francis saw all of creation, including death, as praising God. The tune name **LASST UNS ERFREUEN** dates to 1623 Germany, where it was originally paired with an Easter hymn with the beginning words "Let Us Rejoice". *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* pairs this tune with four different hymns.

**"Build a Longer Table"** ACS 1062 This hymn comes to us from *All Creation Sings* (Augsburg Fortress, 2020) where it is included in the "Justice, Peace" section, though also listed in the topical index under "Hunger." David Bjorlin (b. 1984), a native of Duluth, Minnesota, wrote this hymn in 2017 inspired by a proposed collection of new hymns by the Hymn Society entitled *Singing Welcome: Hymns and Songs of Hospitality to Refugees and Immigrants*. Bjorlin writes about an early usage of his hymn: "Our pastor planned to preach about hunger and noted that this hymn seemed more about justice than hunger--longer tables, not walls; safe refuges with justice, not jails; doorways, not fences." Bjorlin paired his hymn with the French Christmas carol **NOEL NOUVELET**, the name of this tune being the first line of the seventh century carol. Additionally, ELW #379 pairs this tune with the Easter text "Now the Green Blade Rises."

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

### **February 23, Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr (69-155)**

Polycarp was a link between the apostolic age and the church at the end of the second century. He is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, and was known by Irenaeus, bishop of Lyon in France. As the age of eighty-six he was martyred for his faith. Urged to save his life and renounce his faith, Polycarp replied, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" Polycarp was burned at the stake, his death a testimony to the cost of following Christ. Ignatius of Antioch, who was also martyred (c.110), wrote to Polycarp, "Stand firm like an anvil being struck by a hammer. It is the mark of a great athlete to be bruised, yet still conquer. Wait for him who is above time: the Eternal, the Invisible, who for our sake became visible; the Intangible, the Unsuffering, who for our sake suffered, who for our sake endured in every way."

### **February 25, Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess (1850-1921)**

Fedde was born in Norway and trained as a deaconess. In 1882, at the age of thirty-two, she was asked to come to New York to minister to the poor and to Norwegian seamen. She founded the Norwegian Relief Society to work among immigrants. Her influence was wide-ranging, and she established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn to train women as deaconesses, which eventually became NYU Lutheran Medical Center. Fedde founded the Deaconess House and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church in Minneapolis, and helped plan hospitals in Chicago and North Dakota.

### **March 1, George Herbert, hymnwriter (1593-1633)**

As a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, England, George Herbert excelled in languages and music. His scholastic ability earned him a fellowship, and his skill as the Public Orator of the university attracted the attention of King James I. Herbert served in Parliament for two years. After the death of King James and at the urging of a friend, Herbert's interest in ordained ministry was renewed. He was ordained a priest in 1630 and served the small parish of St. Andrew Bemerton until his death. He was noted for unfailing care of his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need. He was the younger brother of (Edward) Herbert of Cherbury the philosopher and deist. George Herbert is best remembered, however, as a writer of poems and hymns such as "Come, my way, my truth, my life" (ELW 816).

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

## St. Mark's Prayer List

Satoko Yamada, John Simon, Judy Cox, Mike Doyne, Lisa Wiedemer, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, 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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

### Readings for 3/2/2025

#### Transfiguration of Our Lord

#### Lectionary 8

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-43a

### Birthdays

2/23 Judy Tolbert

2/24 Alice Blackwelder

2/26 Cynthia Little

3/1 Elaine Hazen



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



## *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**

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

**Lester Ackerman,**

**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**

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

**Sue Wadgymar, Parish Administrator**

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

**Elaine Johnson,**

**Financial Administrator**

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

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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