



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MARCH 2, 2025

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD / LECTIONARY 8

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

As Jesus' appearance was changed on the mountain, the disciples heard a voice saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Jesus' transfiguration began as he prayed, revealing him as God's chosen Son. As Paul writes, "All of us are being transformed into the same image" of Christ. Over a lifetime God is at work in you. Prayer is a transformative power, helping you to be God's transformative power for others, and helping you to speak to the unclean spirits of this age.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Beautiful Savior, King of Creation"

19th century Silesian folk tune
Organ setting by Dale Wood

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

"Alleluia, Songs of Gladness" ELW 318

PRAISE, MY SOUL

1. Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high:
in the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.
2. Alleluia you are sounding, true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother, bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles still are we.
3. Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin shall flow.
4. In our hymns we pray with longing: Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

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. Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 34:29-35

Charles Lakeman, lector

²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 99

Jack Richardson, Taylor McNamara, cantors

Psalm 99:9(Martin A. Seltz) 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.



Pro - claim the great - ness of the LORD;



wor - ship up - on God's ho - ly hill.

¹The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! ²The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. ³Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! ⁴Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. ⁵Extol the LORD our God;

worship at his footstool. Holy is he! ⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them. ⁷He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. ⁸O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. ⁹Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Charles Lakeman, lector

¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. ¹Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

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 9:28-43a

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in

those days told no one any of the things they had seen. ³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴²While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“This is my Son - Listen to him!”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

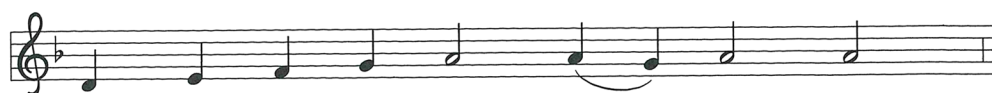
Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” ACS 954

PICARDY

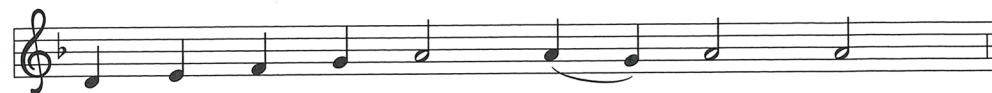
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993 © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: French folk tune, 17th cent.



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



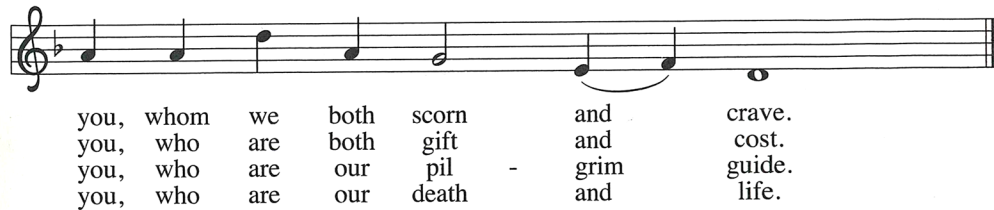
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



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.

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

Charles Lakeman, 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 Comfort; when fear, worry and uncertainty appear to surround us wherever we turn, grant that your church will be a beacon of hope throughout the world. Open our hearts to discern how we may best serve all your children. Strengthen and empower us, as your church, to offer hope for the hopeless, calm for the anxious and safety for the scared. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of Creation, as winter is transformed into spring, grant to us as stewards of creation a renewed vision to transform the earth. Help this nation and all nations to pursue policies that seek to sustain and repair the damage we have done from wanton overuse so that the diversity of your creation might continue to flourish. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, in this time of local, national and global conflict, grant leaders the wisdom and insight to find best solutions and the courage to implement them, despite political pressures for easy answers. Make us bold to stand up for what is right to speak truth to power in your name. God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Beloved Healer, transform and free us from the spirits of this age that result in fear, illness, anxiety and despair. Heal all who suffer in any way that they might be restored to fullness of health and wholeness. Comfort and strengthen our church family, especially: Satoko Yamada, John Simon, Judy Cox, Mike Doyne, 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. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, strengthen us by your Spirit so that we might serve you by helping those who are lonely, afraid or forgotten. Teach us to act in ways that reflect your love and let our lives be instruments of your compassion and mercy. Heal the pain caused by injustice and prejudice, bring reconciliation where there has been division and let love triumph over hatred and fear. Use us to advocate for the marginalized and help us to see your face among those who society overlooks so we may love, welcome and serve all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Renewing God, we give you thanks for musicians and the transformative hope and strength of song. As we give thanks for the life and witness of John and Charles Wesley whose commemoration is today, may we also seek to be transformed from one degree of glory to another throughout our lives that we might praise you forever in your kingdom. 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 “Jesus, on the Mountain Peak” Michael Burkhardt

Jesus, on the mountain peak, stands alone in glory blazing. Let us, if we dare to speak, join the saints and angels praising: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Trembling at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking. All the Prophets and the Law shout through them their joyful greeting: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in its thunder, Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Jesus is the chosen One, living hope of ev'ry nation, hear and heed him, ev'ryone; sing with earth and all creation, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Please stand as able.

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

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” ELW 815 Stanza one HOUSTON

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Music: Kathleen Thomerson; T & M 1970, 1975 Celebration

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

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.



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.

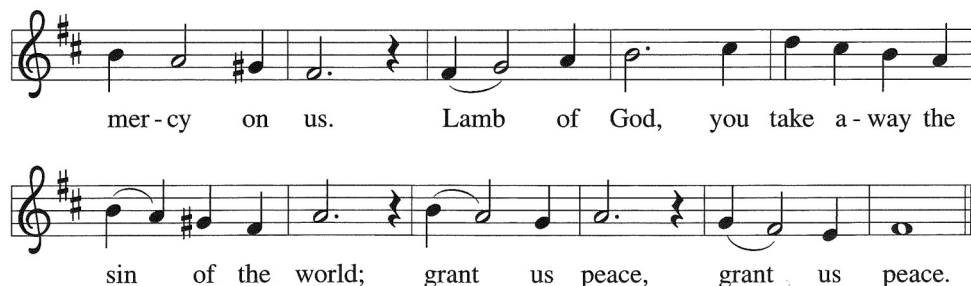
Distribution of Holy Communion

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 on ‘I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light’”

Tune HOUSTON; Organ setting by Wayne L. Wold

Communion Anthem

“Transcendent, Holy God” BWV 129

Johann Sebastian Bach

Transcendent, Holy God, in music vast resounding, let us acknowledge you, our thanks and praise compounding until with all the saints, ecstatic at your throne, we “holy, holy” cry to you, great God alone.

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

“Beautiful Savior” ELW 838

SCHONSTER HERR JESU

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Munster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904; Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair”

Tune DEO GRACIAS, 15TH CENTURY English ballad

Organ Setting by Stephen Gabrielsen



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Palmer Stevenson; lector: Charles Lakeman; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Karen & Kevin Feezor, A.J. Pridgen, Andrea Long; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Susan League, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Taylor McNamara, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer: Andrew Puky; acolyte: Ella Puky; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team B; greeters: Joanne Marz, Tom & Kay Sehorn; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Chris & Palmer Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Janice Miller, Dawn Schwartz



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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper this Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00 pm. Please copy the link to your browser or call the church office to sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-54863812-shrove>

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.

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

St. Marks Lutheran Men's Group: Men, please join us for coffee, donuts, conversation and various activities when we meet again at 9 am, on Saturday, March 8 in Fellowship Hall. Upcoming activities include planning for and preparation of the Lenten dinner we are sponsoring on March 26 as well as participation in church wide clean-up on April 5.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Mary O'Neill's Irish Pub on March 18th at 7:00 PM. This quaint restaurant is in the center of Waxhaw: 116 W North Main St, Waxhaw, NC 28173. Traditionalists might choose soda bread, Reuben sandwiches, corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, bangers and mash, beef stew, etc. They also style several types of steak burgers, salads, salmon, chicken, fish and chips, and a full bar service. Be sure to save room for Bailey's ice cream, their version of bread pudding, or other treat. There is parking in front of the restaurant and a free public lot by the side of the restaurant. From the Matthews side of Charlotte, follow NC-16 (Providence Road) into Waxhaw. The restaurant would be on your right, just after the Shell and Marathon gasoline stations and the water tower. Do not cross the railroad tracks. From the Pineville side of Charlotte (or Fort Mill), follow Johnson Road (US-521-South) and turn left on Highway 75. When you get into Waxhaw, turn left onto NC-16 to cross the railroad tracks. The restaurant would be on your left. All are welcome! Attend whenever any dinner may appeal to you. RSVP to Tom and Judy Tolbert by midnight on the Sunday before the dinner.

Theology on Tap March 20 at Legion Brewing at 7pm located at 5610 Carnegie Blvd. Everyone is welcome!

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, March 27, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Susan Meissner is the author of our selection: *Only the Beautiful*. When she loses her parents in an accident, sixteen-year-old Rosanne is taken in by the owners of the vineyard where she has lived her whole life as the vine-dresser's daughter. She moves into Celine and Truman Calvert's spacious house with a secret, however—Rosie sees colors when she hears sound. She promised her mother she'd never reveal her little-understood ability to anyone, but the weight of her isolation and grief proves too much for her. Driven by her loneliness she not only breaks the vow to her mother, but also, in a desperate moment lets down her guard and ends up pregnant. Banished by the Calverts, Rosanne believes she is bound for a home for unwed mothers. But she soon finds out she is not going to a home of any kind, but to a place that seeks to forcibly take her baby – and the chance for any future babies – from her. We invite all interested


persons to join us in our study of this intriguing (and heart-rending) story. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

Carolina Pro Musica Concert March 28

7:30 pm "Beautiful Baroque"

Japanese Cultural Association Spring Festival March 29 2 - 6 pm, Fellowship Hall. Free, but registration is required. Please register here: <https://www.jasnc.org/2025-springfestival>

Organ Recital 3/30 at 4 pm Nathaniel Corner, UNC Charlotte student.

 **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

"Alleluia, Song of Gladness" ELW 318, is the last hymn in the Epiphany section of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Hymns on this Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration of Our Lord reflect the end of one season, and anticipate the beginning of our Lenten journey this next week. This 11th century Latin hymn was translated into English by John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and comes to us from a time when the alleluias were "buried", and no longer sung or spoken in worship during the season of Lent. The third stanza reminds us "Alleluias cannot always be our song while here below". The tune **PRAISE, MY SOUL** was written by John Goss in 1868 for the hymn "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" (ELW 865).

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" ACS 954 from *All Creation Sings* Susan Dunstan (1955-1993) has served as a pastor and as a duty chaplain in a maximum-security jail. Dunstan says she wrote this hymn in 1984 while commuting on a bus after a particularly bad day at the jail. It was later published in *In Search of Hope & Grace* under the title "Christus Paradox." *All Creation Sings* pairs Dunstan's text with the seventeenth century French folk tune **PICARDY**, named for that region of France.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 2, John Wesley (1703-1791); Charles Wesley (1707-1788); renewers of the church

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline (or method) of frequent communion, fasting and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time, but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience during a Moravian meeting while listening to a reading of Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*, John "felt his heart strangely warmed." He went on to become perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth century Christian revival. The brothers' desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal within the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed independently. Charles wrote more than six hundred hymns, including "Hark! The herald angels sing" (ELW 270), "Christ whose glory fills the skies" (ELW 553), and "Love divine, all loves excelling" (ELW 631).

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Satoko Yamada, John Simon, Judy Cox, Mike Doyne, 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)

Readings for 3/9/2025

First Sunday in Lent

Lectionary 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

Birthdays

3/4 Virginia Edahl

3/5 Cliff Edahl



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

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Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

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Sue Wadgyman, Parish Administrator

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Elaine Johnson,

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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