



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



MARCH 16, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT / LECTIONARY 10

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*During Lent, we set our minds and our faith upon God's promise of descendants as vast as the stars. We are a pilgrim people journeying by faith in the light of God's promise. Paul declares that our citizenship is in heaven, a reminder of our mortality and the temporal nature of life. As Jesus laments over Jerusalem, he promises to journey with us today, tomorrow, and the next day. During Lent, we are encouraged believe in the goodness of the Lord's promises!*

GATHERING

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

**Prelude**

"Largo in G Major" from *Xerxes*

George Friderick Handel; John Brumbaugh, cello

*Please stand as able.*

**Processional Hymn**

"The God of Abraham Praise" ELW 831 Stanzas 1-4

YIGDAL

1. The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love-  
"I Am the One I Am"-by earth and heav'n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.
2. The God of Abr'ham praise! At your supreme command  
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.  
I all on earth forsake-its wisdom, fame, and pow'r-  
and you my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.
3. The God of Abr'ham praise! Your all-sufficient grace  
shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.  
You deign to call me friend; you call yourself my God!  
And you will save me to the end through Jesus'blood.
4. Your promise you have sworn; I on your oath depend.  
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.  
I shall behold your face; I shall your pow'r adore,  
and sing the wonders of your grace forevermore.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 17285-1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.; Music: Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751-1797

*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 forgives us all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Remembering the waters of Holy Baptism, let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

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

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✠ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

## Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

*Please stand as able.*

## Kyrie

“Kyrie Eleison, Lord, Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*





### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### First Reading

### Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Cindy Little, lector

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup>But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup>He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

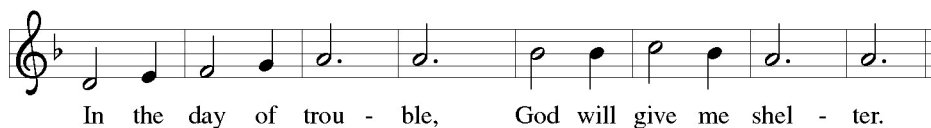
*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 27

Nick Matherly, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 27:5 (Bradley Ellingboe) from *Psalter for Worship Year C*; © 2006 Augsburg Fortress



*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid? <sup>2</sup>When evildoers close in against me to de | vor my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum | ble and fall. <sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken. <sup>4</sup>One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple. R <sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will | give*

me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up | on a rock. <sup>6</sup>Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD. <sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call; have mercy on me and | answer me. <sup>8</sup>My heart speaks your message-- | "Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, | I will seek. R <sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser | vant in anger. Cast me not away--you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation. <sup>10</sup>Though my father and my moth | er forsake me, the LORD will | take me in. <sup>11</sup>Teach me your | way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors. <sup>12</sup>Subject me not to the will | of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence. <sup>13</sup>This I believe--that I will see the goodness | of the LORD in the land | of the living! <sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD | and be strong. Take heart and wait | for the LORD! R

## Second Reading

### Philippians 3:17-4:1

Cindy Little, lector

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

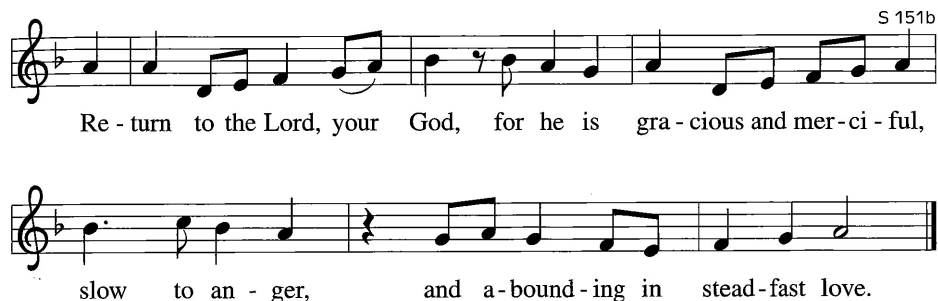
*The Word of the Lord*

## Thanks be to God

*Please stand as able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

"Return to the Lord, Your God" from *Holy Communion Setting Four*



## The Holy Gospel

### Luke 13:31-35

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

## Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

<sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## Sermon

*“But our citizenship is in heaven”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

## Hymn of the Day

“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth” ELW 727

MIT FREUDEN ZART

1. Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, upon a cross they bound you,  
and mocked your saving kingship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you.  
And still our wrongs may fashion now new thorns to pierce that steady brow,  
and robe of sorrow round you.
2. O awesome Love, which finds no room in life where sin denies you,  
and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom the pow'r that crucifies you,  
till not a stone is left on stone, and then the nations' pride, o'erthrown,  
will nevermore defy you!
3. New advent of the love of Christ, will we again refuse you,  
till in the night of hate and war we perish as we lose you?  
From ancient doubts our minds release to seek the kingdom of your peace,  
by which alone we choose you.
4. O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us your new creation;  
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled; we wait your revelation.  
O Love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before your cross;  
come, finish your salvation.

Text: William Russell Bowie, 1882-1969, alt. Music: Medieval European tune

*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

Pastor McKenzie, prayers

*The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.*

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches in every land. Grant courage to your church to be a prophetic voice and to stand firm in the way of the Lord. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you create and sustain the heavens, the stars, and all living things on our planet home. Strengthen the voices of all who call humanity to faithful stewardship of this planet, that governments and industry around the world might reverently use the resources of the earth. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abraham, Sarah, and Paul to help people in every land hear your voice and believe in your promises. Guide leaders in all nations to hear your voice, work for justice, peace and the end of war, and to experience friendship in you that unites humanity across all nations. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life, performing cures today and tomorrow. Care tenderly for all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, and grant hope and strength to all who live in fear and loneliness. Comfort and strengthen our church family, especially: Marilyn Stevens, Jerry Poplin, 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, 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, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us a citizenship in heaven, surpassing our divisions here on earth. Unite nations and communities of faith who have become divided over earthly things, that following in the way of your Son, we might know true friendship and serve our neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and salvation, of whom shall we be afraid? Transform our body of weakness and humiliation into your body of glory and resurrection that we might be counted among the saints, witnessing to and living into your promise of eternal life. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of, Jesus, who leads us from death to life.  
**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**

“Thy Holy Wings”

Swedish folk tune

Setting for choir, cello and organ by Robert A. Hobby

*Thy holy wings, dear Savior, spread gently over me, and through the long night watches I'll rest secure in thee. Whatever may betide me, be thou my hiding place, and let me live and labor each day, Lord, by thy grace. Thy pardon, Savior, grant me,*

*and cleanse me in thy blood; give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good. Oh, take into thy keeping thy children, great and small, and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.*

*Please stand as able.*

## Offertory

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

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” ELW 188

Music: J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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

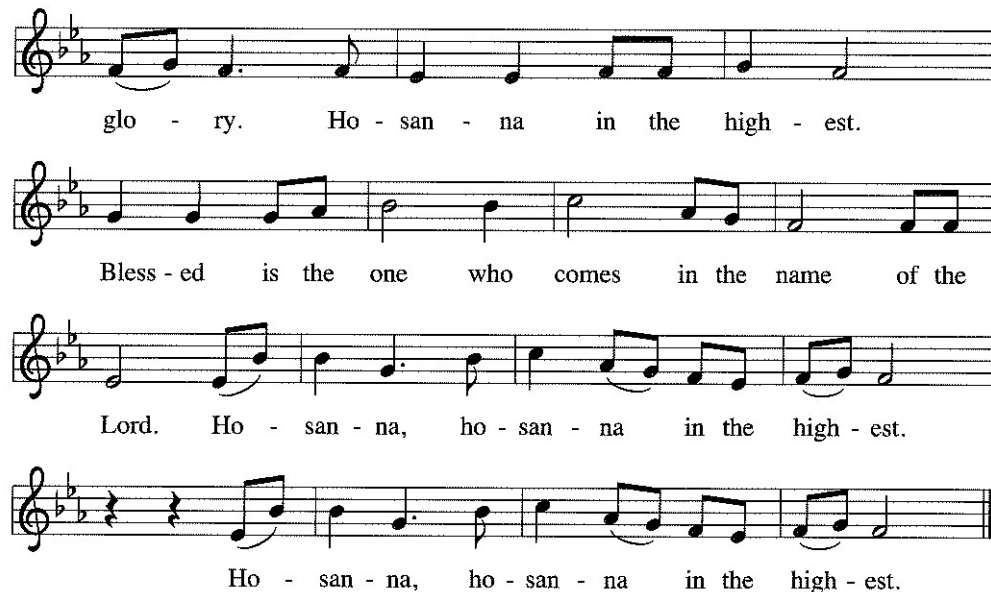
### Sanctus

“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



## 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

All who are hungry, come!  
 The feast of grace is spread.

*Please be seated.*

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month distribution is by intinction. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are always available. Communion kits are no longer available.*



## Communion Music “Lamb of God” from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## “If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

Tune by Georg Neumark; Setting for cello and piano by David Cherwien

## Communion Hymn

### “As the Winter Days Grow Longer” ACS 924 from *All Creation Sings*

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953, © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version, Arr. ©2020 Augsburg Fortress

1 As the win - ter days grow long-er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
2 As the vines burst in - to blos-som, fra-grant in the morn-ing air,  
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil-grims through a thirst - y land,

as our ea - ger ex-pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn-ing light—  
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet-ness, lur - ing hearts to thank-ful prayer—  
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.

yearn-ing peo-ple, here we gath-er, turn - ing watch-ful eyes to you:  
Lent - en peo-ple, here we gath-er, seek - ing lives re-freshed from sin.  
Wan-d'ring peo-ple, here we gath-er, called to rest a - long our way.

God who bless-es earth with spring-time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
God who bless-es earth with spring-time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
God who bless-es earth with spring-time, grant us sab-bath joy this day!

*Please stand as able.*

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **Sending Blessing**

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” ELW 596

**THE SOLID ROCK**

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain:* On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!  
*Refrain*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated.*

### **Postlude**

“Praeludium in G Minor”

Nicholaus Bruhns

✠

✠

✠

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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Cindy Little; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Jay Jacob, Andrea Long, A.J. Pridgen, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Kay Finlon tabulators: Doug Milheim, Diane Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; John Brumbaugh, cello; Amy Woodall, Nick Matherly, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Andrea Long; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team B; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Charles & Susan Lakeman, Andrea Long, Janice Miller, Virginia Molan; communion helper: Sandy Rach tabulators: Charles Lakeman, Diane Thomas



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## *Parish News*

### **From the pastor -**

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Lent is the journey of forty days during which we are invited to renew ourselves in discipleship to Jesus, who calls us to self-denial and the way of the cross. Jesus' words about self-denial invite us to examine who we are in the most profound way. Who is this person I think I am? Who is this "self" I think I know well, yet remains elusive? The Lenten journey of forty days is an invitation to see and understand ourselves on the way of the cross that Jesus walks. To follow Jesus is not the work of a single day or even forty days. It is the discipleship of a lifetime. Lent provides an opportunity to sharpen our focus upon Jesus and his suffering love for humanity, so that freed from a desire for the things of this world, we might more fully live for Jesus in service to others. This Lent, led by Christ, may you rediscover his grace in our life together as St. Mark's serving others!

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

## *Coming Up at St. Mark's*

### **Worship and Congregational Life**

#### **Lenten Schedule**

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.

**LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS:** If you have not received a LENTEN BOX and letter explaining this year's recipient, they can be found on the desk in the gathering place. Please construct it with your name on it and put it in a visible location. This will remind you daily of Jesus' sacrifice for you. Donations can be made several ways - loose change, paper money, or simply a check made out to St. Mark's. Donations can also be made online. Boxes are due back to the church by Easter. This year our donations will go to Queen City Family Tree to sustain and expand affordable housing in low-income Enderly Park.

**The Ethnic Restaurant Group** will dine at Mary O'Neill's Irish Pub on March 18<sup>th</sup> 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, sal-

ads, 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** 3 - 5 pm, Fellowship Hall. Free, but registration is required. Please register here: <https://www.jasnc.org/2025-springfestival>

**Senior 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.markslutherancharlotte234/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 ungrateful 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*

**"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"** ELW 596 Edward Mote (1797-1874) an English Baptist pastor, wrote this hymn in 1834. Mote ran a successful cabinet-making business, but at age fifty-five, became the pastor of the Baptist Church in Horsham, Sussex, where he served for twenty-one years. After his conversion he wrote, "O ignorant was I that I did not know there was a God." This hymn was included with over one hundred hymns, published in his *Hymns of Praise* (London, 1836), and given the subtitle *A New Selection of Gospel Hymns, Combining All the Excellencies of Our Spiritual Poets with Many Originals*. This may be the first book that used the designation "gospel hymn." Our hymnal pairs Mote's hymn with two different tunes: **MELITA** (ELW #597) and the tune we sing today by William Bradbury (1816-1868) **THE SOLID ROCK**

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

### **March 17, Patrick, bishop and missionary to Ireland (c.390-461)**

Born in Roman Britain, the son of a local town council member, Patrick was kidnapped at age sixteen by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. During this captivity, he turned earnestly to God, escaping after six years, and returned to his family in Britain. He began to prepare for ordained ministry, acquiring an intimate knowledge of Latin. He later returned to Ireland as a bishop and missionary. Working from the north of Ireland, he made many missionary journeys with much success. In his autobiography he denounced the slave trade. Patrick's well-known baptismal hymn to the Trinity, "I bind unto myself today" (ELW 450), is appropriate during Lent as a call to return to our baptism.

### **March 19, Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**

Joseph was the spouse of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Though the gospels are silent about much of Joseph's life, we know he was a carpenter by trade. Luke's gospel fully shows him acting in accordance to civil and religious law by returning to Bethlehem for the census and by presenting Jesus in the temple on the fortieth day after his birth. Matthew's gospel tells of Joseph's trust in God, who led him through visionary dreams. Joseph is mentioned again at the start of Jesus' ministry in Luke (4:22), "Is not this Joseph's son?" The veneration of Joseph seems to have originated in the East, where the apocryphal 'History of Joseph the Carpenter' enjoyed considerable popularity.

### **March 21, Thomas Cramner, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (1489-1555)**

Cramer was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, and ordained in 1523. He served as bishop to Taunton in England, and was chosen by King Henry VIII as archbishop of Canterbury, largely because he agreed to the king's divorce from Catherine of Aragon. His lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which in its revised form remains the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was eventually tried and executed for his support of the Protestant Reformation during the reign of Queen Mary.



### March 22, Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to the Americas (1703-1758)

Edwards was a minister in Connecticut and has been called the greatest of the New England Puritan preachers. One of Edward's most notable sermons is titled, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." However, in the rest of his works and preaching, Edwards had more to say about God's love than God's wrath. His personal experience of conversion came when he felt overwhelmed with a sense of God's majesty and grandeur, rather than by a fear of hell. Edwards served a Puritan congregation, where he believed that only those who had been fully converted ought to receive communion. His congregation, however, thought otherwise. Edwards left that congregation and carried out mission work among the Housatonic Native Americans of Massachusetts. He became president of the College of New Jersey, which later became Princeton University.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*



### St. Mark's Prayer List

Marylin Stevens, Jerry Poplin, 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, 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, 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 3/23/2025

#### Third Sunday in Lent

#### Lectionary 11

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

### Birthdays

3/18 Neil Dixon

3/22 Mindy Curley



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 Wadgyr, Parish Administrator  
[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Elaine Johnson,  
Financial Administrator  
[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)