



## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



**MARCH 9, 2025**

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT / LECTIONARY 9**

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

*Lent is a season of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love, strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. As we, like our Lord Jesus, journey through the wilderness of the world, we face, and struggle with, temptations. Paul encourages us to call upon the name of the Lord that we might be saved from temptation, and strengthened to believe with our hearts and confess him in word and deed.*

### GATHERING

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

#### Prelude

“Elegy for Organ”

George T. Thalben-Ball

*Please stand as able.*

#### Processional Hymn

“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church” ELW 321

OLD 124TH

1. Eternal Lord of love, behold your church  
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.
2. So daily dying to the way of self  
so daily living in your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.
3. If dead in you, so in you we arise,  
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;  
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
glorious in spring-time dress of leaf and flow'r,  
so into life and glory shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931-2003. Music: *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

*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. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through 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

### Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Larry Lippert, lector

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

*The Word of the Lord*

### Thanks be to God

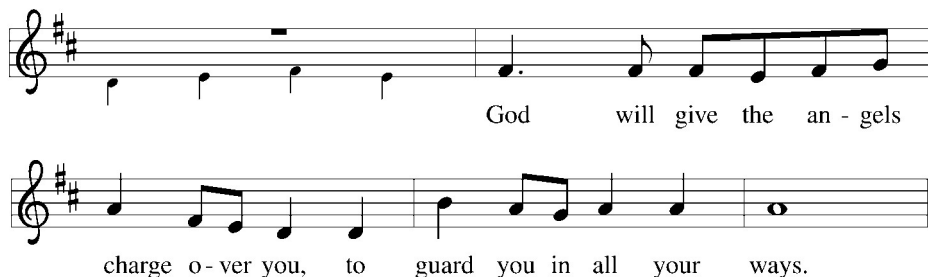
### Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Nick Hanewinkel, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 91:11 (Carl Schalk) 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.*



<sup>1</sup>You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, <sup>2</sup>will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." <sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, <sup>10</sup>no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. <sup>11</sup>For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup>On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup>You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. <sup>14</sup>Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. <sup>15</sup>When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. <sup>16</sup>With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

## Second Reading

**Romans 10:8b-13**

Larry Lippert, lector

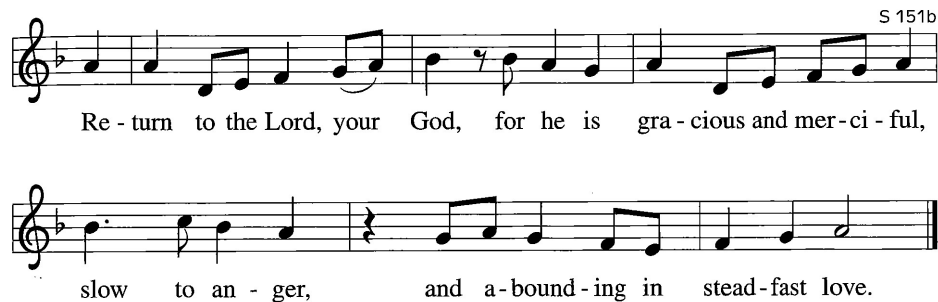
"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

*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 4:1-13**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' <sup>11</sup>and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## Sermon

*"Temptation in the wilderness"*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

## Hymn of the Day

"When We Are Tested" ACS 922 from *All Creation Sings*

SLANE

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Irish traditional.

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,  
fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,  
nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,  
food that sus - tains us by night and by day,  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest,  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do,  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

## 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

Dave Dunlap, prayer assistant

*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.*

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church, and strengthen it to withstand temptations to material wealth, worldly authority, and showy displays of power. Embolden the church to follow Jesus, emptying itself in loving service for others in this world. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, you speak and your Word creates and sustains all things. Renew in your people words and actions that will heal and sustain the environment and all habitats so that future generations will know its abundance and glorify your name. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Peaceful God, we pray for all who suffer because of war and conflict. Daily we see the misery and anguish in the Middle East, Ukraine, and in our own back yards due to mass shootings, but so often our comfort, wealth and security insulate us from these tragedies. Teach us all the compassion and understanding needed to end violence. Grant wisdom and strength to our leaders, helping them to set aside partisanship and personal interests for peace and to alleviate suffering. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, as we near five years since the start of a global pandemic, COVID and other viral illnesses continue to spread. We ask that you bring peace and love to all those suffering from the many viral diseases, chronic diseases, and those with other physical or mental afflictions. The doctors, nurses, technicians, and other providers that care for them must be present day and night to help with their patients' needs. Be present with them, helping them to find energy and compassion to do their work, to find time with their families, and for much needed and deserved rest. Comfort and strengthen our church family, especially: 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, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Jesus drove the scammers and profiteers out of the temple because they were taking advantage of those with less means or those who did not know better. Today those with similar intent hide behind all forms of modern technologies, but their intent is the same. Help us to recognize those that would take from us, the way Jesus recognized them; help us call them out, and help us to stop them from their wrongdoing. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Eternal Lord, you led Israel out of oppression in Egypt, and you have led generations of saints to overcome temptation and to witness to your love. Grant to us such courage and faithfulness that we too will reach the promised land of your kingdom. 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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)*

## MEAL

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

*(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)*

### Anthem

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Carl F. Mueller

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy way; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Create in me a clean heart, O God!*

*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  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we**

forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### Invitation

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.

“Improvisation on ‘When We Are Tested’”

Traditional Irish tune SLANE; Piano setting by Bob Kauflin

### Communion Anthem

“A Lenten Walk” (Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley)

American spiritual; Setting for organ and choir by Hal H. Hopson

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself; Oh, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself. We must walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it by ourselves; Oh, nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk it by ourselves. Jesus bore the cross of sorrow; he had to bear it by himself; Oh, nobody else could bear it for him, he had to bear it by himself. We must take our cross and follow; we must take it by ourselves; Oh, nobody else can follow for us, we have to follow by ourselves.*

*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

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” ELW 319

CONSOLATION

Text: based on Claudia F. Nernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930; © 1978 *Lutheran book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Music: A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003' Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

1. O Lord, throughout these forty days you  
prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance  
for our sin, and free us from our past.
2. You strove with Satan, and you won; your  
faithfulness endured; lend us your nerve, your  
skill and trust in God's eternal word.
3. Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and  
fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny  
ourselves that we may know God's love.
4. Be with us through this season, Lord, and  
all our earthly days, that when the final  
Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

### DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated.*

### Postlude

“Praeludium in C Minor” BWV 549

Johann Sebastian Bach



**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer: Andrew Puky; acolyte: Ella Puky; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Nick Hanewinckel, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Youth; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Cindy Little; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team B; 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



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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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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

#### **Worship and Congregational Life**

**Today: Charlotte Flute Association Recital** at 2:30 PM.  
Admission is free, and everyone is welcome!

## 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:** Last Sunday Lenten boxes were handed out after both services. If you did not receive one, they will be handed out again today as you leave the service. Please construct it, put your name on it and place it in a visible location to remind you each day during Lent of Jesus' path to the cross and his sacrifice for us. Donations can be made several ways - daily loose change, paper money, or simply write a check to St Mark's and place it in the box. Even if you choose to donate online, keep your box as a visual reminder. This year our donations will go to Queen City Family Tree to sustain and expand affordable housing in low-income Enderly Park. A letter addressing this Charlotte agency and more details about them accompanies each box.

**ROOM IN THE INN** A successful 8 week season of Room in the Inn is behind us. Social Ministry and our co-leaders Susan Ginns and Gretchen Payne thank all who participated in any way. It definitely "takes a village".

**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, 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** 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 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

**"When We Are Tested"** ACS 922 Our Hymn of the Day comes to us from the new collection of songs and hymns *All Creation Sings* (2020). Ruth Duck (b.1947) an American writer, liturgical theologian and ordained United Church of Christ pastor, was asked to write a hymn that told the story of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. It is included in her book *The Poetry of Grace* (2015). Duck's hymn is paired nicely with the familiar Irish tune **SLANE**, which is named for the hill where Saint Patrick is said to have defied the king by lighting the new fire at the Easter Vigil. This tune appears two times in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) ELW 793 "Be Thou My Vision" and ELW 765 "Lord of All Hopefulness."

**"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"** ELW 319 This nineteenth century hymn was written by Claudia Frances Hernamen (1838-1898) and published in her *A Child's Book of Praise* (1873). She had a life-long interest in Christian education, with over 150 hymns written especially for children. This hymn attempts to explain the deeper meanings of the forty days of Lent: fasting, praying, temptations, penitence which point to the joys of Easter which follows the penitential season. The shape note tune **CONSOLATION** was compiled by Ananias Davisson (1780-1857) in his *Kentucky Harmony* (Lexington, 1816). Shape notes are a musical notation designed to facilitate congregational and social singing. Shapes were added to noteheads in written music to help singers find pitches within major and minor scales without the use of more complex notation like key signatures on the staff.

## This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

### **March 10, Harriet Tubman (1822-1913); Sojourner Truth (c.1797-1883), renewers of society**

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland and remained a slave until about age thirty when, fearing she would be sold and moved further south, she escaped with the help of the Underground Railroad. After that, she helped about three hundred others to escape until slavery was abolished. After the Civil War, her home in Auburn, New York, became a center for women's rights and served the aged and the poor. Sojourner Truth, too, was born a slave in New York state. Her birth name was Isabella Baumfree. After slavery was abolished in New York in 1827, she was freed and, while working as a housekeeper, became deeply involved in Christianity. A number of years later, she discerned a call to become a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving. In later life, she also became a popular speaker against slavery and for women's rights.

### **March 12, Gregory the Great (c.540-604), Bishop of Rome**

Gregory was born the son of a Roman senator, and later became the prefect of the city of Rome. He sold his vast property and devoted the proceeds to the relief of the poor. He founded seven monasteries, six in Sicily and one in Rome. In 590 he was elected Bishop of Rome. Gregory's work was extensive. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. He established a school to train church musicians. Gregorian chant is named in his honor. He wrote a treatise underscoring what is required of a parish pastor serving a congregation. He sent missionaries to preach to the Anglo-Saxons who had invaded England. He also organized distribution of grain during a shortage of food in Rome.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

## St. Mark's Prayer List

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, 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 3/16/2025

#### Second Sunday in Lent

#### Lectionary 10

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

### Birthdays

3/9 John Danello

3/12 Lee George

3/15 Cyndy Cox

3/14 Matt McCall



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 Wadgyman, 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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