



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



APRIL 27, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because of all we have seen in this world, it is often hard to believe in the power of God's love and peace. Like Thomas, Jesus comes to each of us saying, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega who comes to us offering love and peace every moment. Among all of the other voices in this world, listen to his voice that alone gives peace, that frees from sin and doubt to love and forgive.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"The Rejoicing" from *Royal Fireworks Music*

Con brio - Moderato - Con moto

George Frideric Handel

The congregation stands as the cross is carried into the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn

"Thine Is the Glory" ELW 376

JUDAS MACCABAEUS

1. Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain: Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

2. Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*
3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr, R, Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939; Music: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

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 all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things we have done
and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

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

“Lord, Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

Jack Richardson, cantor



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

“This Is the Feast of Victory”

Holy Communion Setting Three

Richard Hillert

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain*
3. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Acts 5:27-32

Meg Fielding, lector

²⁷When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them. ²⁸saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.” ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 118:14-29

Jack Richardson, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 118:28 (Robert Buckley Farlee) Psalm refrain from *Psalter for Worship Year C*; © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



¹⁴The LORD is my strength | and my song, and has become | my salvation. ¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous: “The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!” ¹⁶The right hand of the LORD | is exalted! The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!” ¹⁷I shall not | die, but live,,and declare the works | of the LORD. R ¹⁸The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely, but did not hand me o- | ver to death. ¹⁹Open for me the | gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD. ²⁰“This is the gate | of the LORD; here the righ- | teous may enter.” ²¹I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me and you have become | my salvation. R ²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected has become the chief | cornerstone. ²³By the LORD has | this been done; it is marvelous | in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made; let us rejoice and be | glad in it. ²⁵Hosanna! | O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, pros- | per our days! R ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the LORD; we bless you from the house | of the LORD. ²⁷The LORD is God and has giv- | en us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners | of the altar. ²⁸You are my God, and | I will thank you; you are my God, and I | will exalt you. ²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good; God's mercy en- | dures forever. R

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

Meg Fielding, lector

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“The Strife Is O’er” ELW 366 stanza one

VICTORY

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909; Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Begin with refrain:



1. The strife is o’er, the battle done; now is the victor’s triumph won! Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Jesus comes with peace”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“We Walk by Faith!” ELW 365

SHANTI

1. We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e’er spoke: “My peace be with you here.”
2. We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, “My Lord and God!”
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:

4. For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.
5. And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.: Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lisa Barnette, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of Everlasting Hope, by your selfless sacrifice we have followed the Easter journey and have been transformed and renewed to new life as we are freed and forgiven from sin for eternity. Help us as your church to exhibit our belief in the power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and to be witnesses to others with the gift of the Holy Spirit within us. Let us rejoice and be glad in God's love that endures forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of hope, as Jesus gave peace to this disciples, so grant peace to the leaders of all nations that they might embody your peace for all who suffer in war, who are displaced and alone, and who live in fear because of their nationality, ethnicity, or gender. Cause leaders to look to you that they might work to restore peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, Africa, and every place where there is enmity and discord. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, with Earth Day celebrations around the globe we are reminded of how vast our responsibilities are in caring for the land, the air quality, the oceans and every living thing that is created within the universe. Many initiatives to protect critical areas and endangered species have been reversing the damage that humankind has imposed on the earth. We are now in danger of losing helpful innovative programs and see a disregard for these protections because of monetary decisions weighing greater than compassion. Lord, we ask that you lead us in actions that will change the hearts of policy makers to care for the greater good of your creation for all inhabitants. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gathering God, we praise you for continuing to gather us out of our difference and diversity into Christ's living body at St. Mark's. Bless our witness to you with love, welcome, and inclusion so all people might know your loving presence that calls each of us children of God. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate Lord, you love each of us unconditionally, and by how you lived humbly, asked us to care for others with love and mercy. There are so many people who need to feel your presence in whatever circumstances they face. Lord, we enfold in love and hope, all persons suffering with physical and mental health illnesses, those overwhelmed by grief from loss, those heavy-laden with caregiving responsibilities, and those who live with doubt in the power of God. We bless and pray for healing and encouragement for: Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Evelyn Scott, Marilyn Stevens, Jerry Poplin, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you are the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come. We give thanks for the faithful life and witness of Francis, Bishop of Rome, and pray that we also might so live with compassion, hope and love that leads us with all people to share in Christ's resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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

“The Whole Bright World Rejoices Now”

David H. Williams

The whole bright world rejoices now, Alleluia! The birds do sing on ev’ry bough, Alleluia! Then shout beneath the racing skies, alleluia! To him who rose that we might rise, Alleluia! And all you living things make praise, Alleluia! He guideth you on all your ways, Alleluia! The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—Alleluia! Our God most high, our joy and boast. Alleluia!

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Touch That Soothes and Heals” ACS 939 from *All Creation Sings*

CIVILITY

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr, R, Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939; Music: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
Refrain
“See my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the
grave. “Be my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, “live as
ones I died to save.”

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

S 152

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, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Three

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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 Three*

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.

"Variations on 'That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright'"

15th century tune PUER NOBIS
Organ setting by Michael Burkhardt

Communion Hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" ELW 373 Stanzas 1-4

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Pierre de Corbeil, D. 1222, arr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Arr. 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" all on earth with angels say;
raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, O heav'ns; and earth, reply.

2. Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo! The sun's eclipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids his rise; Christ has opened paradise.
4. Lives again our glorious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?
Once he died our souls to save; where your victory, O grave?

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, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright!” ELW 384

PUER NOBIS;

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

1. That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their loving eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!
2. O Jesus, king of gentleness, with constant love our hearts possess;
to you our lips will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.
3. O Christ, you are the Lord of all in this our Easter festival,
for you will be our strength and shield from ev'ry weapon death can wield.
4. All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Improvisation—Toccata on “The Strife Is O’er”

Tune VICTORY by Giovanni da Palestrina

Organ setting by Alfred Fedak



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Lisa Barnette; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Joanne Marz, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Andrea Long; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Janice Miller, Karen Feezor, Doug Milheim; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Needed; ushers: Team A; greeters: Kay & Tom Sehorn, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Andrea Long, Virginia Molan, Kevin Feezor, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Dianne Thomas, Dawn Schwartz



Parish News

From the pastor -

"If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

Blessed Eastertide greetings! The joy we experience at Easter is profound because Christ is risen and alive in every heart open to him. In Holy Baptism we are raised with Christ to live into his resurrection life each and every day. Paul certainly experienced this, encouraging the church at Colossae to know that we are freed to seek and live for "the things that are above, where Christ is." The good news of Easter is powerful because daily we also live among the things that are "below" - the things of this broken and sinful world. This is the world God so loves, where Christ lived and died that he might raise us with Christ to seek the things that are above, moving us from death to life. Every day, freed from sin and death, may you seek the things that are above. In doing so, Christ, who is alive in you, will help you live for others with his unfailing strength.

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

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

5/4 Queen City Ringers, Spring Concert, "What a Wonderful World," 5 pm.

5/10 Bach Akademie Charlotte Concert, 7:30 pm
Our April Theology on Tap will be Thursday, April 24 at 7 pm at the home of Neil and Charlotte Dixon. BYOB and an appetizer to share. Text Charlotte for the address at 704-451-0267. Rain Plan - go to the Cotswold location of The Pizza Peel located at 4422 Colwick Road.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Men's Group invites all the men of the congregation to join us on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a special potluck breakfast. We are celebrating the men's group, and their accomplishments over the past year. In addition to food and fellowship we will briefly review activities of the past 12 months as well as discuss upcoming events. Please sign up (using link below) and plan on bringing some breakfast food (and note on the signup what you would like to bring.) This year, following the breakfast, we plan on splitting into two groups: One will stay at the church and clean-up the remains of the breakfast and reset the Fellowship Hall. A second group (maybe six to eight men) will do one of our obligated "street cleanups" of Scott and Kenilworth Avenues. Allow about an hour's worth of time for the pick-up walk. To sign up use the following link and paste it in your browser or call the church office: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-coffee1>
Contact Steve McCall, Kevin Feezor or Mike Doyne with questions.



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 at 9:30 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.



Music Notes

"We Walk By Faith" ELW 635 At first glance this hymn may appear to have been written in the twentieth or twenty-first century, however it comes to us from the pen of nineteenth century English writer and minister Henry Alford (1810-1871). In addition to being a parish priest, and eventually dean of Canterbury Cathedral, he was a Greek scholar, musician, painter, wrote eighteen hymns, and wrote or edited forty-eight books. This hymn was first published in *Psalms and Hymns* (London, 1844), and written for the commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle. He quotes from the account of Jesus and Thomas in John 20, but includes all of us, in our Emmaus walk and our meeting with our Risen Lord in water, bread and wine. Marty Haugen (b. 1950) American composer of liturgical music, wrote the tune we sing today. **SHANTI** is Sanskrit for "shalom" or "peace."

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.

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.

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".

"Thine Is the Glory" ELW 376 This French Easter hymn was written by Edmond Budry (1854-1932) with its first publication in 1885. Budry was pastor for thirty-five years of the Free Church in Vevey, Switzerland. He begins this hymn with a line of praise to the risen Christ, then repeated after each stanza in the refrain. It tells of angels who rolled the stone away, alludes to Jesus' encounter with the women at the tomb, and refers to the doubting of Thomas. The tune **JUDAS MACCABAEUS** is by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) and is from his oratorio *Judas Maccabeus*.

"Touch That Soothes and Heals" ACS 939 All Creation Sings (2020). This hymn comes to us from the pen of American hymn writer Mary Louise Bringle (b.1953) a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, and a Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College, Brevard, NC. Bringle writes that this hymn "was inspired by a sermon from my former pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Blair. Tom was preaching on the resurrection appearance in Luke 24, in which Jesus reassures the disciples by saying 'See by my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.' Of course Jesus is referring to the marks of the crucifixion that remain on his body. But Tom used the words to muse about his own father's work-worn hands and feet, about distinctive marks--calluses, scratches, etc. left by the work we do. This led me to create my own list of things done by hands and feet that might leave a mark: if not literally on the actor, then perhaps symbolically on the acted upon. Hence, the hands that break bread, beckon children, bind wounds...and the feet that walk beside the weary, or rush to share good tidings." The composer of the tune **CIVILITY** is Gregg DeMey (b. 1972) a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church of North America. In the composer's words, "it is an original Celtic tune inspired by the composer's connection between the north coast of Ireland and the wild shores of Lake Michigan."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

April 29, Catherine of Siena, theologian (1347-1380)

Catherine of Siena joined the "Mantellate" serving as a tertiary of the Dominican Order (a lay sister). She was a mystic, scholastic philosopher, and a theologian. She worked to bring the papacy of Gregory XI back to Rome from its exile in Avignon, France, and was sent as an ambassador to negotiate peace among warring Italian city-states. Her letter to Pope Urban VI is well-known for encouraging the pope to reform the church with compassion and love. In 1970 she was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI. Thirty-six historical figures (including four women) have been named "Doctor of the Church." The other women are Teresa of Ávila, Hildegard von Bingen, and Thérèse of Lisieux. The ELW (p. 87) contains "A prayer of Catherine of Siena."

May 1, Philip and James, Apostles

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, who after following Jesus invited Nathanael to "come and see," and Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. According to tradition, Philip preached in Asia Minor and died as a martyr in Phrygia. James, the son of Alphaeus, is called "the Less" (meaning "short" or "younger") to distinguish him from another apostle named James, commemorated July 25. Philip and James are commemorated together because the remains of these two saints were placed in the Church of the Apostles in Rome on this day in 561.

May 2, Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria (296-373)

Athanasius attended the Council of Nicea in 325 as a deacon and secretary of the Bishop of Alexandria. Athanasius defended the full divinity of Christ against the Arian heresy held by emperors, magistrates, and other theologians. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his defense of the divinity of Christ. The Athanasian Creed (named for him) is recognized by the Lutheran Church, along with the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. Athanasius' Easter Letter of 367 is the oldest surviving record listing the 27 canonical books of the New Testament. This is significant, because it demonstrates that the canon of the New Testament was already established prior to 367 through a process of tradition rather than by the decree of a council.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Evelyn Scott, Marilyn Stevens, Jerry Poplin, Satoko Yamada. Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, 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)

Readings for 5/4/2024 Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Birthdays

4/27	Timothy McKenzie	5/1	Randall Darnell
4/28	Catherine Metze	5/1	Alexandra Jacob
4/29	Hannah Bonetti	5/1	Melissa Smith
4/29	Jim Stone	5/2	Lauren Dunlap
4/30	Sophie Schwartz	5/2	Helen Holzinger
4/30	Ainsley Stevenson	5/3	William Schwartz
4/30	Ingrid Keiris	5/3	Karsen Ferner



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)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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Sue Wadgyrmar, Parish Administrator

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Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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