



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MAY 18, 2025

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The risen Christ is making all things new. He gives us a new commandment of love; to live in him is to be a new creation. In Acts, Peter realizes that God gives the Holy Spirit and the gift of grace "even to the gentiles." As we anticipate a new heaven and a new earth, we are called to live into the newness of his reign of love that makes all things new.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Variations on 'All Glory Be to God on High'"

Plainsong tune by Nikolaus Decius, ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HOH

Organ settings by John A. Behnke

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

Processional Hymn

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" ELW 367

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1. Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here: Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife. "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin Augsburg Fortress; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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.

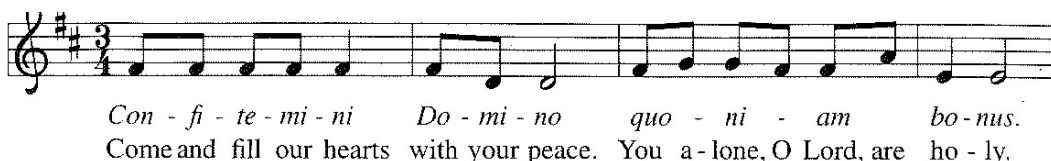
And also with you.

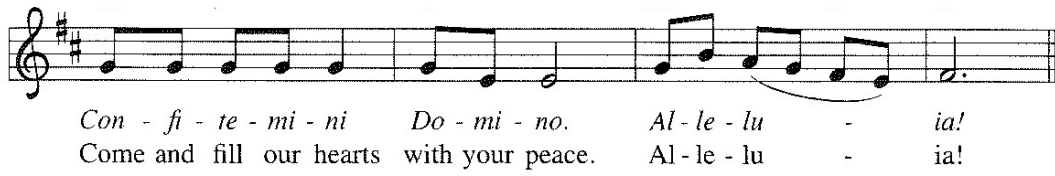
Please stand as able.

Kyrie

“Come and Fill Our Hearts” ELW 528 sing two times

CONFITEMINI DOMINO



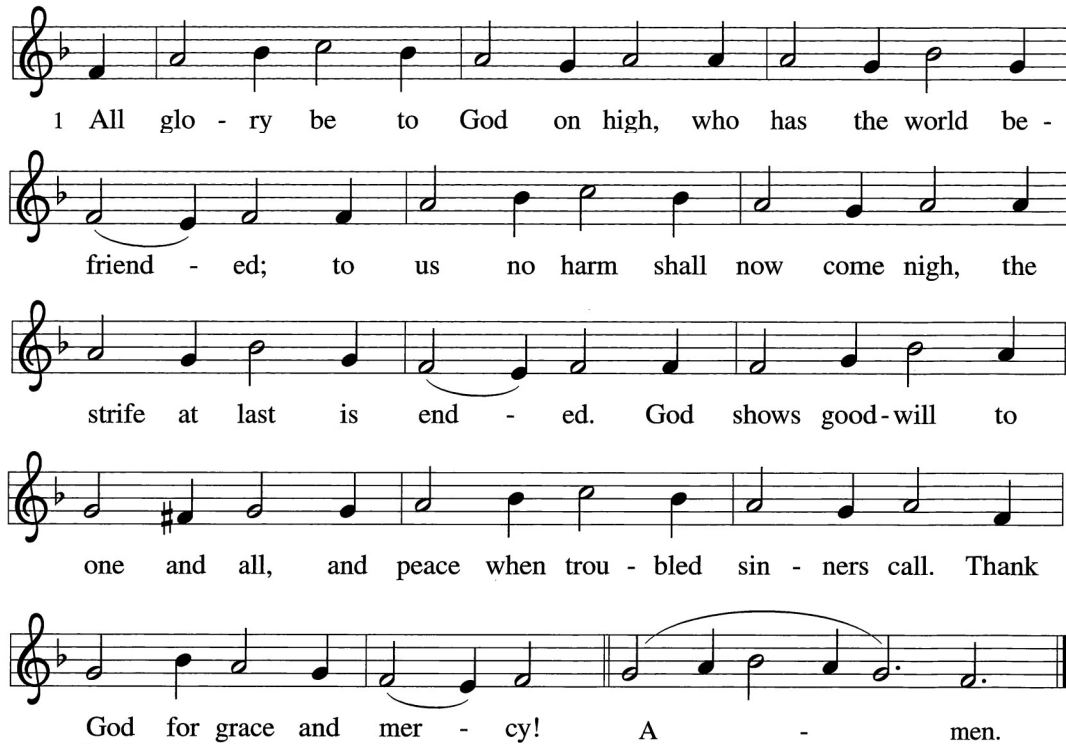


Hymn of Praise

“All Glory Be to God on High” ELW 410 stanza one

ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HOH

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485-1550, tr. Composite, © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress; Music: Plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through 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

Acts 11:1-18

Charles Lakeman, lector

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call

profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 148

Jack Richardson, Madeline Phillips, cantors

Psalm 148:13 (Thomas Pavlechko) from Psalter for Worship Year C © 2006 Augsburg Fortress



Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens; praise God | in the heights. ²Praise the LORD, | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven. ³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon; sing praise, all you | shining stars. ⁴Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens. ⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created, ⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever, giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R ⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps; ⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will; ⁹mountains | and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars; ¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds; ¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples, princes and all rulers | of the world; ¹²young | men and maidens, old and | young together. R ¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven. ¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! R

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

Charles Lakeman, lector

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

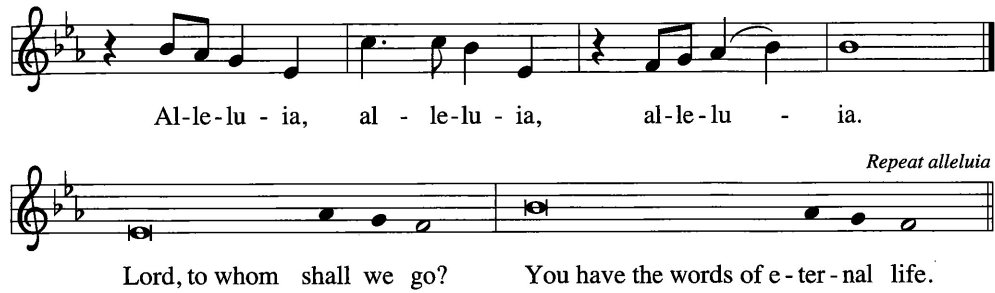
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia” from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



The Holy Gospel

John 13:31-35

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

"A new commandment"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day


"God, We Gather as Your People" ACS 1038 stanzas 1 & 2 from *All Creation Sings*

WELCOME BE OUR SONG

Text: &c. Music: David Lohman, b. 1961 © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress



Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o-pened, fling the church doors o-pen
wide. May there be room e-nough for ev-'ry-one in - side.
For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -
long. May that wel - come be our song.

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

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Pastor McKenzie, 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.

Risen Lord, fill the church with your Spirit of redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your unconditional grace for all people of every nationality, ethnicity, gender, identity, and ability so that no one is overlooked or excluded from your loving welcome. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Risen Lord, awaken in us joy and wonder at the beauty of creation. Recommit us to the preservation of green spaces and greenways in our communities, and empower us to be advocates for the careful use and management of the environment so that future generations know your abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Risen Lord, you call us to love one another and all people. Guide the leaders of this nation and all the world more deeply into your love that they may protect the vulnerable, the stranger, the foreigner, and all who live in want and fear with equitable and just economic and social policies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Risen Lord, wipe away the tears of all who suffer with sickness, loneliness, addiction and recovery. Grant strength and peace to our extended church family: Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, Susan Ginns, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Jerry Poplin, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Danyne Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Risen Lord, you raise up, call, and equip laborers of the gospel for your church. Bless and guide the Call Committee of St. Mark's with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to discern among many candidates the candidate you are calling us to select to help us in your outward mission to the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Risen Lord, we give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love, especially Erik, King of Sweden and martyr, whose commemoration is today. Guide us to live by their example of faithfulness and lead to your eternal kingdom. 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

“Love One Another”

Hal H. Hopson

Love one another, love as I have loved you. This is a new commandment I give you to love one another with all your heart, by this I will know you are mine. 1. Hear, oh, hear me: see the hungry, then share your food. Hear, oh, hear me: see the homeless, then build a house. You are my hands. You are my feet and my voice. For when you help all those in need you do it for them and for me. 2. Hear, oh, hear me: see the suffering, then share a word. Hear, oh, hear me: see the captives, then set them free. Love one another, as I have loved you.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW 631 stanza one

HYFRYDOL

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

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.

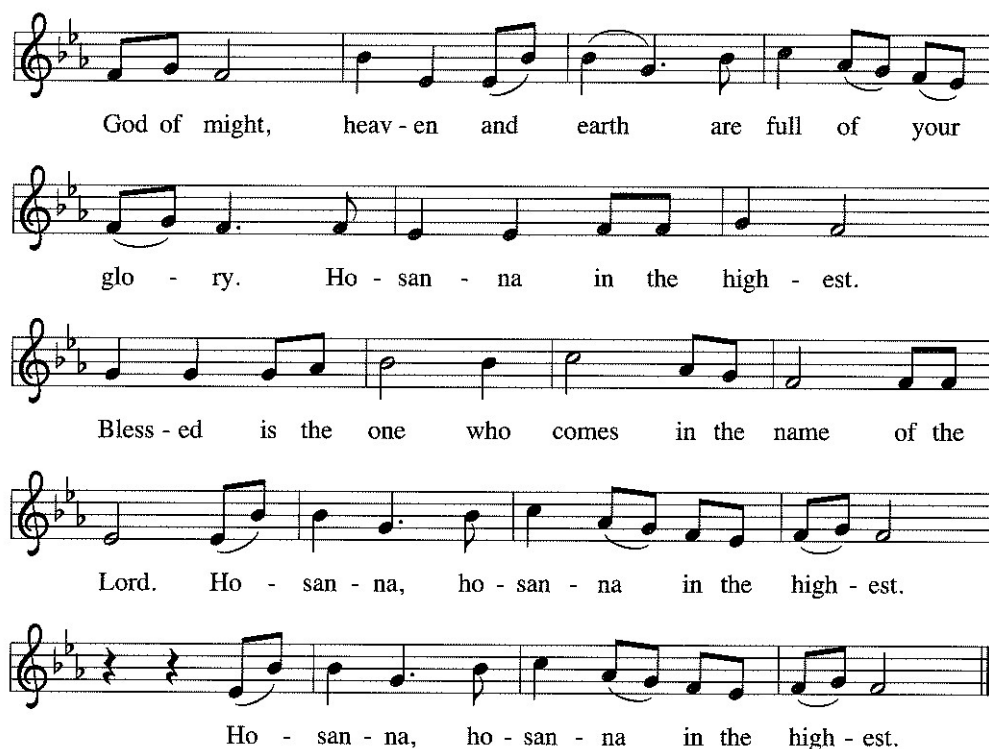
Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Twelve

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



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

“Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus” from *All Creation Sings*

Holy Communion Setting Twelve

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

“All Glory Be to God on High”

Organ setting by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

“Beloved, Let Us Love”

Donald Busarow
Kate Suchanek, soprano

Beloved, let us love' for love is of God. In God alone love has its true abode. Beloved, let us love: for those who love, they only, are God's children from above. Beloved, let us love: for love is rest, and those who do not love cannot be blessed. Beloved, let us love: for love is light, and those who do not love still live in night. Beloved, let us love: for only thus shall we see God, the Lord, who first loved us.

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

“Baptized and Set Free” ELW 453

BAPTIZED AND SET FREE

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956; Music: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, T&M: 1999 Augsburg Fortress

1. We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.
2. We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.
3. We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.
4. Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Dialogue for Organ”

Gilbert M. Martin



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers): crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Charles Lakeman; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Jay Jacob, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes, Eddie & Carol Goodall; communion assistants: Janice Miller, Chris Stevenson, Palmer Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Diane Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Madeline Phillips, Jack Richardson, cantors; Kate Suchanek, soprano soloist; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team A; greeters: Patrick & Rebecca Huang, Dale & Mary Lou Hopp; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Charles & Susan Lakeman, A.J. Pridgen; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Janice Miller, 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

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will re-calibrate our taste-buds at **Bad Daddy's Burger Bar** in Ballantyne on **May 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM**. Big Daddy's started on East Blvd in 2007. The Ballantyne location has good parking and safe strolling in the middle of Ballantyne: **15105 John J Delaney Drive, Charlotte, NC 28277**. Bad Daddy's has

a fervently defended reputation for being THE place for burgers on the south side of Charlotte. There are entrées other than burgers, but it's difficult to move past the concept of "burger" at this specialty restaurant. Incentive like sweet potato fries with chipotle-buttermilk—or 20 other sauces—further encourage sticking to a burger theme. The lengthy menu includes appetizers, beef, chicken, turkey, salmon, and even no-meat burgers. Possible beverages include water, sodas, Margaritas, tippy milkshakes, and other bar items. One has the option to design a burger from scratch. The healthy column includes salads that also can be specified in detail or taken from the menu. And, there are desserts, including banana pudding and other delights. The atmosphere is friendly and festive. The service is attentive and helpful. The food is delicious. This will be an interesting place to try out a new, earlier time for dinners. Heading west on Ballantyne Commons Parkway: turn left at the last traffic light before Johnston Road/US-521 (John J Delaney Drive). If you miss that turn, turn left on Johnston Road, then turn left at the first traffic light (John J Delaney Drive is a "loop" road). Heading east on Ballantyne Commons Parkway: go through the Johnston Road/US-521 intersection, then turn right at the first traffic light (John J Delaney Drive). Heading south on Johnston Road/US-521: go through the Ballantyne Commons Parkway intersection, then turn left at first the traffic light (John J Delaney Drive). Heading north on Johnston Road/US-521: turn right at the John J Delaney Drive traffic light. If you miss that turn, turn right on Ballantyne Commons Parkway, then turn right at the first traffic light (John J Delaney Drive). RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert to hold seating for a tantalizing taste-adventure!

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, May 22, at 10 am in the large conference room (and via Zoom). Our selection this month is *The Hunter* by Tana French. This is a sequel to *The*

Searcher, which we read last fall. Cal Hooper, a retired American detective, moved from Chicago to a small village in Ireland because it looked like a nice place to live. Cal has built a furniture business in the community. He has developed a relationship with Lena (a local woman) and is gradually turning Trey Reddy from a half-feral teenager into a good kid going good places. But then Trey's long-absent father reappears, bringing along an English millionaire and a scheme to find gold in the townland. Suddenly everything they've been building is under threat. This is a nuanced, atmospheric tale that explores what we'll do for our loved ones, what we'll do for revenge, and what we sacrifice when the two collide. Please join us for this multi-faceted mystery. You may contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

6/3 Senior Sunday (10:30) Please join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating high school seniors.

6/3 and 6/5 Bach Akademie Charlotte Festival, 7:30 pm



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.markslutheranchlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Family Ministry

Nursery: A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you

the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

Confirmation Class meets every Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship

Please prayerfully consider your 2025 pledge to Christ's mission at St. Mark's. Your pledge is important to St. Mark's mission and may also be offered at any time. Brochures are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



2025 Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

Social Ministry

NOURISH UP (Loaves & Fishes) The need for assistance in many families goes on. ALL foods are welcome but some items you may not have thought of but are certainly needed and appreciated: ketchup, mustard, mayo, salt, pepper, sugar, flour, tea bags, instant coffee, pancake mix "complete", syrup and cornbread mix. Please make sure all donations are NON-PERISHABLE and NON-BREAKABLE. The gathering place baker's rack is always waiting for your donations to those in our community in need. *"When I was hungry you gave me food"*

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Announcements

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall: Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m.; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m.; in Room 210: Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".

Music Notes

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" ELW 367 This Easter hymn was first published in the *Service Book and Hymnal* (1958). The author is Paul Zeller Strodach (1876-1947) a Lutheran Pastor and author of numerous devotional and liturgical books, including *The Church Year: Studies in the Introits, Collects, Epistles, and Gospels* (Philadelphia, 1924). Notice the phrase "Christ has triumphed! He is living!", uses the same rhythmic and melodic ostinato five times in the first three stanzas. The fourth stanza, a doxology in praise of the Trinity, concludes "Christ has triumphed!" with an "Alleluia!" Strodach intended this hymn to be paired with the sixteenth-century German tune **LASST UNS ERFREUEN**. Though a vocally "athletic" tune, it spans only one octave. Dr. Paul Westermeyer writes in his *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2010) "Strodach knew what he was doing when he used this tune for a text that joins the song of heaven and earth and has the incarnational exchange of the heaven's vault on the low end and the earth's "here" on the high."

"God, We Gather as Your People" ACS 1038 This hymn comes to us from the worship supplement *All Creation Sings* (Augsburg Fortress, 2020) and was written in 2007, in honor of the retirement of the directors of the Opening and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, an organization that is working for the full inclusion of LGBTQ people into the life and leadership, a sibling organization to Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation. The hymn and its tune **WELCOME BE OUR SONG** were written by David Lohman (b. 1961) currently director of music at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka, Minnesota. In addition to his work with the church, and as a composer, pianist and singer, he was the associate conductor on the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera* (1995-1999). This hymn is better known in non-Lutheran circles as **"For All the Children"**. Lohman's hymn prays for the welcome that Christ gives to all people; that our hearts, minds, and church doors may know that welcome in the grace and mercy of God; and that, even in the brokenness of our fallen world, we may all be free.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

May 18, Erik, King of Sweden, martyr (died 1160)

Erik, long considered the patron saint of Sweden, ruled from c. 1156 to 1160. He is honored for efforts to bring peace and for his work to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He established a protected Christian mission in Finland that was led by Henry of Uppsala. As king, Erik was noted for his desire to establish fair laws and courts, and for his concern for the poor and sick. Erik was killed by a Danish army that approached him at worship on the day after Ascension. He is reported to have said before his death, "Let us at least finish the sacrifice. The rest of the feast I shall keep elsewhere."

May 21, Helena, mother of Constantine (died c. 330)

Helena was mother of future Roman emperor, Constantine the Great. After her son was converted to Christianity, he influenced her to also become a Christian. Helena led an exemplary life, was generous to the poor, and is also remembered for traveling through Palestine and building churches on locations she believed to be sites of the Nativity, Jesus' burial, and the Ascension.

May 24, Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543); Leonhard Euler (1707-1783); scientists

In remembering scientists we also ponder the mystery and grandeur of God's creation. Educated in astronomy, mathematics, law, medicine, and theology, Copernicus is remembered for his work, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*, and his idea that the sun, not the earth, is the center of the solar system. Euler is regarded as one of the founders of the science of pure mathematics and made important contributions to mechanics, hydrodynamics, astronomy, optics, and acoustics.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, Susan Ginns, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Jerry Poplin, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Danyne Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa & Oakley Coburn, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, 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 5/25/2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

Birthdays

5/19 Sarah Storrs

5/21 William Thompson

5/22 Margaret Poplin

5/24 Karen Feezor

5/24 Suzanna Payne

5/24 Joe Barrett



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



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

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Sue Wadgyman, Parish Administrator

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Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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