



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



JUNE 1, 2025

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In Jesus' high priestly prayer, he prays that we may all be one so that the world may believe, and Acts reminds us that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Jesus Christ is gathering the world's diverse people into one flock, because in one another we see, hear, and know God anew. We need one another to know God. Christ has made us his own and he is not divided. In seeking him we find one another so the world may believe.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Improvisation on ‘In Christ There Is No East or West’”

African American tune MCKEE

Organ setting by Timothy Shaw

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

Processional Hymn “Crown Him with Many Crowns” ELW 855 Stanzas 1, 3, 4 & 5

DIADEMATA

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.
3. Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.
4. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
5. Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Please be seated.

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

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

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

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
God for grace and mer - cy! A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Acts 16:16-34

Larry Lippert, lector

¹⁶One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she

would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.”¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.”²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened.²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.”²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”³¹They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 97

Jack Richardson, Nick Matherly, cantors

Psalm 97:12 (Carl Schalk) from Psalter for Worship Year C © 2006 Augsburg Fortress



The LORD reigns; let the | earth rejoice; let the multitude of the | isles be glad. 2Clouds and darkness sur- | round the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God's throne. 3Fire goes be- | fore the LORD, burning up enemies on | every side. 4Lightnings light | up the world; the earth | sees and trembles. 5The mountains | melt like wax before the Lord of | all the earth. 6The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O LORD, and all the peoples | see your glory. R 7Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, | all you gods. 8Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice, because of your judg- | ments, O LORD. 9For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth; you are exalted far a- | bove all gods. 10You who love the | LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand | of the wicked. 11Light dawns | for the righteous, and joy for the hon- | est of heart. 12Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's | holy name. R

Second Reading

Revelation 21:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Larry Lippert, lector

¹²“See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” ¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁶“It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears

say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. ²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

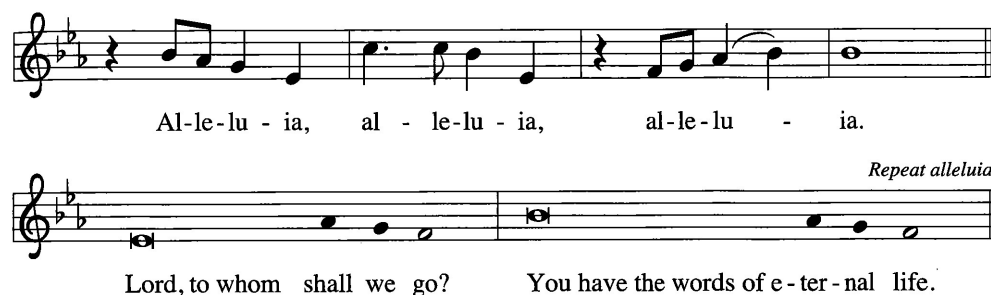
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia" from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



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

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

The Holy Gospel

John 17:20-26

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Faith Statements

2025 Graduating Seniors

Brady Ferner, Palmer Stevenson

Sermon

"So that the world may believe"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.




Hymn of the Day

"In Christ There Is No East or West" ELW 650

MCKEE

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.; Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
 his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
 All chil-dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Recognition of St. Mark's 2025 High School Senior Graduates

The 2025 high school graduates and their parents are invited to come forward.

Brady Ferner, a graduate of South Mecklenburg High School. (Future plans: Appalachian State University, Boone, NC)

Palmer Stevenson, a graduate of Providence High School, Charlotte. (Future plans: Appalachian State University, Boone, NC)

Parents and graduates gather and the pastor says,

Parents, please wrap the blanket around your child as you say, together with the congregation:

Brady and Palmer, we thank the Creator for the gift you have been to us. You have enriched our lives and given them deeper meaning. Through you, we have a greater understanding of God's gifts of grace and unconditional love for us. As you move forward into the next season of your lives, wherever you go, our love goes with you. May this blanket remind you of our love, the warmth of this faith community, and the power of God's Spirit. We bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The pastor continues,

Graduates, please say to your parents together,

You have given of your heart and of your home. You have loved and cared for me through good times and bad. I give you thanks for the many sacrifices you have made for me, and I thank God for the selflessness of your love. Thank you for your patience, your wisdom, and your unconditional love. Wherever I go, you will always be a part of me. Wherever I go, your love and example will continue to bless me. Whatever I do, I will always be your child. I give thanks to God for blessing my life with you.

Prayer of Sending

The pastor continues,

Let us pray. We give you thanks O God, for the many gifts you have given to Brady and Palmer. Send them out into the world with your blessing and peace. Wherever they may go, we ask that you would be present with them. May the warmth of these blankets remind them of the love of home and church, the love of their parents, the friendships of this church, and may the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with them, now and always. We pray this in Jesus' holy name.

Amen.

The pastor continues,

Brady and Palmer, go out into the world with the grace, peace and love of Christ!

The congregation may clap as a sign of acclamation. The service continues with the Nicene Creed. Please stand.

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

Larry Dagenhart, Jr., 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.

Gracious God, you are the Alpha and the Omega. Everything we know and everything we have comes from you. Keep us, your church, mindful of all the gifts you have bestowed on us. Remind us of your limitless love and that you are always with us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abundant God, your creating work is ongoing and you love all that you have made. Bless creation with life and uphold all species and their habitats. Grant to us, as co-creators with you reverence for creation

always helping us to sustain your abundance and to share the fruit of creation with all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord, we pray for our community — local, national and international. In a world where the meek are ignored, abused, and abandoned, give them your strength so their needs are met, their voices are heard, and their safety is secured. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, you hold all people in your care. Surround all who suffer from sickness, loneliness, addiction, and anxiety, and grant faith and hope to the dying. Bless and hold our extended church family in your loving embrace: Marcia Newlin, Bill Stevenson, 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, Dannye 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.

Lord, as we move into summer, and for many a somewhat slower pace, remind us to take a break when we can. Grant us rest from our labors, the time to enjoy the outdoors and night skies, and renewed energy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you gather your church as one so that the world may believe. We praise you for saints like Justin Martyr, whose commemoration is today, who lived witnessing to you. May we also journey through this world in unity with you, helping others to hope in your kingdom of peace and love as revealed in Jesus Christ. 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

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and

tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” ELW 392 stanza one

HYFRYDOL

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”

Offering Prayer

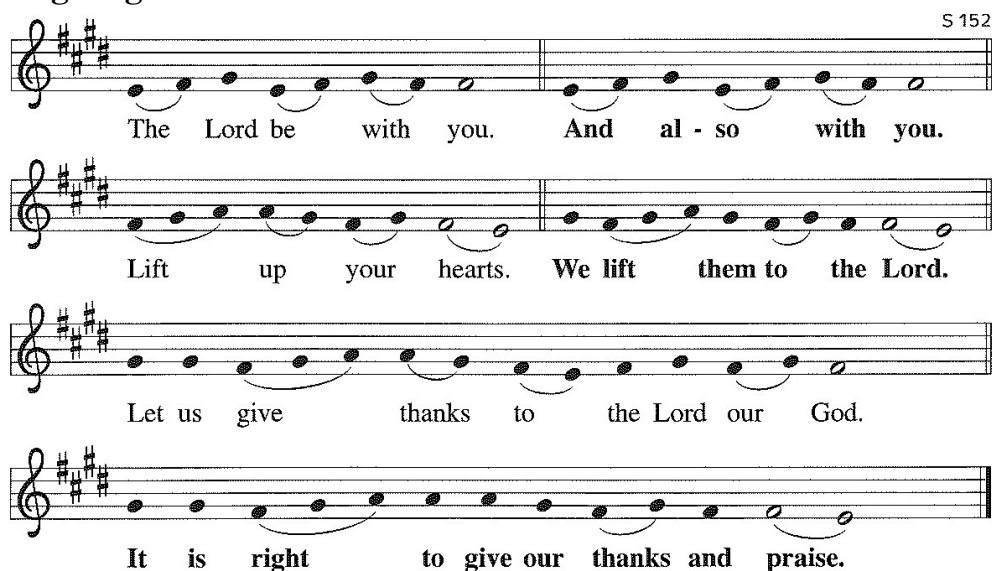
Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and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

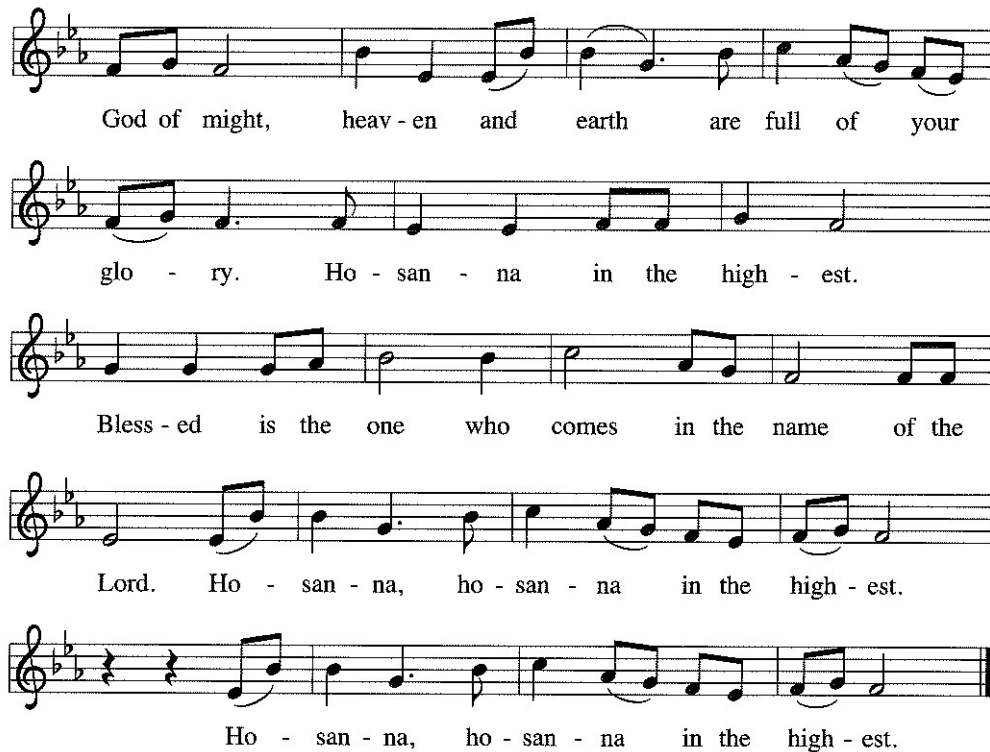
Sanctus

“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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for 'Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.' The second staff contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The third staff contains the melody for 'Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.' The fourth staff contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.'

"Partita on DIADEMATA"

Organ setting by Charles Callahan

Communion Hymn

"One Bread, One Body" ELW 496

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Verses

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.
2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.

Text & Music: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939 © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ, and OPC Publications

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

“Bind Us Together” from *With One Voice*

BIND US TOGETHER

Text: & Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946 © Thankyou Music, admin. Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Refrain

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er in love.

1 There is on - ly one God. There is
2 You are the fam - 'ly of God. You are the

on - ly one King. There is on - ly one Bod - y;
prom - ise di - vine. You are God's cho - sen de - sire, . . .

that you are is the why we can sing: glo - rious new wine.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Prelude on ‘Crown Him with Many Crowns’”
Tune DIADEMATA by George J. Elvey; Organ setting by Jerry Westenkuehler



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayers assistant: Larry Dagenhart, Jr.; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner, Palmer Stevenson; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Jay Jacob, Millie Cansler; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Andrea Long, Virginia Molan, Tom Puky, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Susan League, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Nick Matherly, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Cindy Little; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team B; greeters: Dave & Eileen Dunlap, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Karen & Kevin Feezor, A.J. Pridgen, John Simon; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Janice Miller



Festival Events at
St. Mark's
Lutheran Church
1001 Queens Road





Tuesday, June 3 • 7:30 pm
All in the Familie
JS Bach & Sons Chamber Music
Members of Bach Akademie
Charlotte Orchestra and Chorus
Led by cellist Guy Fishman,
BAC Artistic Leader



Thursday, June 5 • 7:30 pm
Follia & Fantasy
The Art of the Trio Sonata
String Sonatas by Antonio Vivaldi
and JS Bach
Led by violinist Aisslinn Nosky,
BAC Artistic Leader

Tickets:
June Festival: <https://tickets.bachcharlotte.com/a-musical-offering>

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 un-failing strength.

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

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Senior Sunday Today! (10:30) We give thanks for God's witness to us in Brady Ferner and Palmer Stevenson, our graduating high school seniors. May God bless them as they begin new chapters in their lives! Please celebrate with them after the 10:30 am service.

6/3 and 6/5 Bach Akademie Charlotte Festival, 7:30 pm. On 6/3 enjoy JS Bach & Sons Chamber Music, Orchestra and Chorus, and on 6/5 String Sonatas by Vivaldi and JS Bach. Get your tickets at www.bachcharlotte.com.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Men's Group invites all the men of the congregation to join us on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. We will also prepare and deliver lunch for Hospitality House.

St Mark's Ethnic Restaurant Group will meet at Southern Pecan Restaurant in Phillips Place on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Southern Pecan celebrates "Gulf South" cuisine with casual ambience. The goal is to convey you emotionally to the Deep South and tease you with ancient favorites. Here you can find libations, oysters (in non-R months), Mississippi tamales, BBQ shrimp, quail gambettes, po'boys, gumbo, layered Napoleon salad, chicken & dumplings, pecan-crusted catfish, jambalaya, blackened fish, short ribs, roasted chicken, shrimp & grits, collards, mac & cheese, dirty rice, and so much more, including cobbler, key lime pie, and a full bar service. Join the fun and relax while enjoying the fare of *Nawlins*, Mobile, Pensacola, and *Laf'yet* without having to leave the county. You may even dance a Creole zydeco -- or enjoy them on your plate. If you enter Phillips Place at the main traffic light entrance (Cameron Valley Parkway), turn right on the first side street (Phillips Place Court), and you will find Southern Pecan one block down that path. RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by the Sunday midnight before the dinner. All are welcome.

Our June Theology on Tap will be Thursday, June 19 at 7 pm at Middle James Brewery, located at 400 N Polk Street, Pineville



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.



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

SPECIAL SUMMER FOOD DRIVE FOR NOURISH UP

(Loaves & Fishes) The need for food assistance in many families goes on. It is especially true for the low-income families whose children will not be receiving free breakfasts and lunches when school is out. Please remember these families and their children the next time you grocery shop. Put a couple "child friendly" items in your cart such as cereal, canned pasta entrees, single portions of mac & cheese, canned fruit, peanut butter and squeeze bottles of jelly. All foods are of course welcome. Just remember to make sure they are NON-PERISHABLE and NON-BREAKABLE. The baker's rack in the gathering place is waiting for your donations. Thank you!

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

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" ELW 855. This hymn was extracted from two six stanza hymns, twelve stanzas total. From Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) we have stanzas one, two, three, and five, and from Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) stanza four. Both hymn writers were inspired by the passage from Revelation 19:12 "and on his head were many crowns." Each stanza itemizes the characteristics of the risen Lord: "The Lamb upon his throne," "The Lord of love," "The Lord of life," and "The Lord of years." George Elvey (1816-1893) wrote the tune **DIADEMATA** for this hymn, with its first publication in the 1868 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune name **DIADEMATA** is derived from the Greek word for crown or diadems, a royal headband.

"In Christ There Is no East or West" ELW 650 John Oxenham (1852-1941), an English Congregational Church layperson, wrote this text in 1908 for a pageant presented by the London Missionary Society, and was later published in a book of poems called *Bees in Amber* (1913). Oxenham's text is an example of a prophetic hymn, one that states the ideal to be achieved rather than the present situation. Austin Lovelace writes: "Unity and mission are combined, for the mark of a disciple is love for every person and the willingness to serve all humankind.". Oxenham based this hymn on Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." The tune **MCKEE** is thought to be an African American adaptation of a tune sung by Irish immigrants to the United States. Henry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) is the arranger and named the tune for his rector Elmer M. McKee at St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City. Burleigh served as baritone soloist for fifty-two years at McKee's church.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

June 1, Justin, martyr at Rome, apologist (100-165)

Justin was born of pagan parents. At Ephesus he was moved by stories of early Christian martyrs and was led by an elderly Christian man he met there. Justin described his conversion saying, "Straightaway a flame was kindled in my soul and love of the prophets and those who are friends of Christ possessed me." Justin was a teacher of philosophy and engaged in debates about the truth of the Christian faith. In his *First Apology*, Justin's description of early Christian worship around the year 150 is the foundation of the church's pattern of worship in both the East and West.

June 3, The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886

Christianity had been introduced to Uganda after 1877, but was made available primarily to those in the court of King Mutesa. His successor, King Mwanga II, was angered by these Christian members of the court whose allegiance was not to him but to Christ. On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. Other martyrs followed. But many were impressed by the confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths, and the persecution led to a much stronger Christian presence in the country.

June 3, John XXIII, Bishop of Rome (1881-1963)

In his ministry as a bishop of Venice, John (then Archbishop Roncalli) was loved by his people. He visited parishes and established new ones. He had warm affection for the working class - he himself was the child of Italian peasants - and he worked at developing social-action ministries. At age seventy-save he was elected bishop of Rome. Despite the expectation that he would be a transitional pope, he convened the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) saying it was time to "open the windows [of the Church] and let in some fresh air." *Aggiornamento* ("updating" but also translated as "modernization") was one of the keywords used by John and bishops about the council to describe a new openness to the world and modernity. The council brought great changes in Roman Catholic worship and ecumenism, changes that have influenced Lutherans and many other Protestant churches as well.

June 5, Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr (c.675-754)

Boniface (his name means "good-deeds") was born Wynfrith in Devonshire, England. He was a Benedictine monk who at the age of thirty was called to missionary work among the Germanic tribes of the Frankish Empire. His work was protected by Charles Martel, and after Charles' death Boniface carried out a thorough reform of the whole Frankish Church, abolishing the practice of simony, or the selling of ecclesiastical offices, and establishing churches, schools, and seminaries. Boniface was preparing a group in Frisia for confirmation on the eve of Pentecost when he and they were killed by a band of Frisian robbers.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Marcia Newlin, Bill Stevenson, 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 6/8/2025

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17

Birthdays

6/1 Melody Johnson

6/3 Will Miles

6/3 Sydney Payne

6/4 Gene Ellington

6/4 Elizabeth Wenzel

6/7 Kevin Feezor

6/7 Susan Johnson



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

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

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Sue Wadgymar, Parish Administrator

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Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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