



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



JUNE 22, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 12

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today's gospel reminds us that Jesus seeks out all who are held captive by the unclean spirits of the world, offering restoration of body, mind and spirit. Paul describes baptism as being clothed with Christ, that we become one in Christ amid our diversity. No matter our ethnicity, social background, gender, or identity, God in Christ accepts all people unconditionally, giving the church a mission to cross boundaries and barriers with God's reconciling grace, love, and welcome for all humanity.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Brother James’ Air” Tune by James L. Macbeth Bain

Setting for organ by Searle Wright

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

Processional Hymn

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” ELW 843

NETTLETON

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915 ©2006 ELCA; Augsburg Fortress Press

1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
3. Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

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.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

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

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
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

"Father, I Adore You"

Tony Coelho

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,
fore you; how I love you.

Let us pray. O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Please be seated.

Thanks be to God

are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

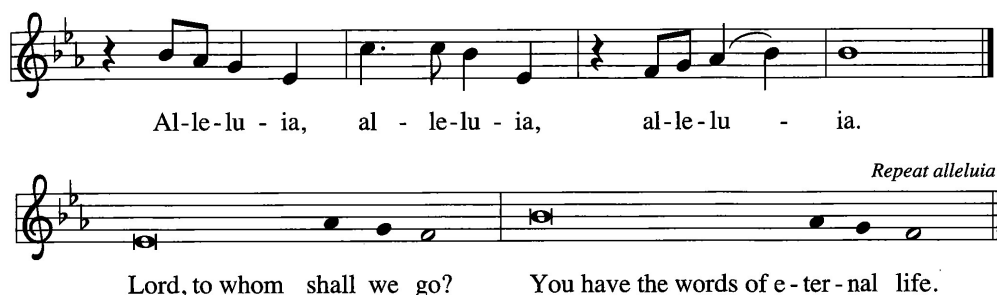
The Word of the Lord

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

Luke 8:26-39

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW 611

KINGSFOLD

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889; Music: English folk tune



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;
 lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
 I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
 I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

The Apostles' Creed

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Melissa Smith, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

Almighty God, you call us into the death and resurrection of Christ, that we may walk in newness of life. Renew your church, O Lord. Let the waters of baptism stir in us a deep sense of purpose and belonging. May our preaching be bold, our welcome wide, and our witness true. Strengthen St. Mark's and

congregations everywhere to live as people of hope—inclusively planting seeds of grace, standing for what is right, and tending your kingdom's quiet, faithful work. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Creator God, continue to bring forth life that inspires us with wonder at all you have made. In this season of growing, sustain and protect farmers and migrant laborers who produce food for our tables, and inspire advocates and policy makers with just policies that allow all to be fed from your bounty. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of justice and compassion, this world aches for healing—for an end to violence, for food where there is hunger, for shelter where there is displacement, and for peace where there is war. Open the hands of the powerful and soften the hearts of those in charge. Pour out your Spirit on all who lead, that they may act with wisdom, humility, and courage. Bless the work of those who bring relief, challenge injustice, and build bridges of understanding. And may your church rise as a sign of hope in troubled times. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, continue to bless this congregation to unconditionally welcome all people, weaving among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here, and enliven our proclamation to boldly tell the story of how much you have done for us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Compassionate Shepherd, you search for each lost one and hold the hurting close. We lift to you those who are ill, grieving, or struggling—known to us or named only in our hearts. Steady the hands of caregivers, calm anxious minds, and surround the suffering with your peace. Be near to those making hard choices, those starting new chapters, and those facing unknown futures. And for those among us rejoicing in good news or new beginnings, we give thanks. Knit us together as one body, that we may carry one another's burdens with grace. We pray for: Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Jerry Poplin, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, 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. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Lord of eternity, dominion belongs to you, and you rule over the nations. May all the ends of the earth turn to you in worship and praise, and at the last through Christ, draw all creation with its diversity of peoples into your kingdom of light and love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gather our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our 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

“King of Glory, King of Peace”

K. Lee Scott

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee; and that love may never cease, I will move thee. Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me; Thou did'st note my working breast, Thou hast spared me. Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee, and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee. Though my sins against me cried, Thou did'st clear me; and alone, when they replied, Thou did'st hear me. Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n, I will praise thee; in my heart, though not in heav'n, I can raise thee. Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll thee: Ev'n eternity's too short to extol thee!

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW 884 OLD HUNDREDTH

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 Ten

S207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, 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

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

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

"O Lamb of God"

Holy Communion Setting Ten

S 208

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

"Word of God, Come Down to Earth"

Tune LIEBSTER JESU by Johann R. Ahle
Setting for organ by Richard Purvis

Communion Hymn

"Word of God, Come Down to Earth" ELW 510

LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HER

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919 © James Quinn, SJ, admin. Selah Publishing, Co, Inc.; Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

1. Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending; touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending. Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
2. Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation, Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation, saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love out-pouring.
3. Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling, Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling, Word of Truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed 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. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;

The life of the Spirit

✙ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” ELW 445

BEACH SPRING

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947, ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Co. Arr. 1985 Augsburg Fortress
Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.
2. We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
3. Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Thy Strong Word”

Tune EBENEZER by Thomas J. Williams
Organ setting by Richard Purvis

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Charles & Susan Lakeman, Tom & Kay Sehorn; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Jay Jacob, A.J. Pridgen, Kevin Feezor, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Charles Lakeman, Dawn Schwartz; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir; Amy Woodall, directing; Jack Richardson, Amy Woodall, cantors; Tom Tolbert, guest organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Lisa Barnette; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team B; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Charles & Susan Lakeman, Andrea Long, Janice Miller, Virginia Molan; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Kevin Feezor, Charles Lakeman



Parish News

From the pastor -

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

During the "Time after Pentecost," we celebrate the triune God who enlivens, encourages and sends the church into mission in the world. The church is not a building, but rather, a congregation of people gathered and sent into the world by Jesus to be living signs of God's steadfast love for all people. We are one body the church, and amid the world's brokenness, the church is called to be God's transformative presence that overcomes barriers and divisions, proclaiming what God has done for us. In the season after Pentecost, we remember that God is steadfastly calling the church to be a voice of unity, compassion, justice and love. How is God calling you to use your gifts for Christ at St. Mark's? We have been clothed with Christ in baptism to welcome, care for, and love all people!

In the life of the Spirit,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

With Gratitude! We give thanks today to Tom Tolbert, our guest organist, and to Amy Woodall conducting the choir while Les Ackerman is away.

The St. Mark's Book Group's next meeting will be Thursday, June 26, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. This month's selection is *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. This is a work of historical fiction about the nine working-class boys from the University of Washington's eight-oar team that represented the US in rowing at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. They narrowly beat out Italy and Germany to win the gold medal. They never expected to surpass the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, but they did. There are two backstories. One illustrates how all nine members of the Washington team came from lower-middle-class families and had to struggle to earn their way through school during the depths of the depression. The second backstory begins with a depiction of Hitler decreeing construction of the spectacular German venues at which the Games would take place. Along the way, the book also describes how the Nazis successfully covered up the evidence of their harsh and inhumane treatment of the Jews and other

minorities so as to win worldwide applause for the Games, duping the United States Olympic Committee, among others. Please join us as we explore this most interesting story. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.



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

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW 843 was written by Lutheran pastor, writer and composer Rusty Edwards (b.1955), and first published in *The Lutheran Journal* (1986). This popular hymn has been included in ten major hymnals in the United States, Scotland, and Canada. Edwards says of his hymn: "It is astounding how much Jesus did in such a brief earthly ministry, yet more astounding is how God's blessing and saving acts continue on through Christ. How can we do other than praise this Light in the darkness?" The American tune **NETTLETON**, first published in Harrisburg, PA in 1813, captures the spirited essence of Edward's text. The tune **NETTLETON** was named for Rev. Asahel Nettleton, a noted American evangelist of the early eighteenth century.

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW 611 This hymn is one of over six hundred hymns that come to us from the pen of Scottish author, pastor and editor Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). It was included in the author's *Hymns Original and Selected* (London, 1846) with the title "The Voice from Galilee." Each stanza is Jesus' call in the first two lines, with our response in the last two, expressing the peace that Jesus brings to us. Our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* pairs Bonar's hymn with two contrasting tunes, **KINGSFOLD** and **THIRD MODE MELODY** #332.

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" ELW 884 & 885 Bishop Thomas Ken (1637-1711) is the author of this famous Doxology. This text is actually the final stanza of three hymns written for the boys at Winchester College, one of the oldest public preparatory schools in England. His instructions read: "Be sure to sing the Morning and evening Hymn in your chamber devoutly, remembering that the Psalmist, upon happy experience, assures you that it is a good thing to tell of the loving kindness of the Lord early in the morning and of his truth in the night season." The term Doxology can be broadly defined as an expression of the glory of God. From the Roman liturgy there are two texts, the Lesser Doxology "Gloria Patri" (Glory Be to the Father), and the Greater Doxology, the "Glory to God in the Highest", included in our Lutheran Liturgy. American churches often use the Doxology at the Offertory, as we sing today at St. Mark's. **OLD HUNDREDTH** is one of the tunes from the *Genevan Psalter* (1562), and received its name from pairing with a metrical setting of Psalm 100.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

June 24, Nativity of John the Baptist

John appears in all four gospels, and his birth and life are celebrated exactly six months before Christmas Eve. John was the son of Zechariah, a priest of the temple, and Elizabeth, a kinswoman of Mary, mother of Jesus. Many were baptized by John in the Jordan including Jesus. For Christians in the Northern Hemisphere, the dates John and Jesus' birth are deeply symbolic. John said that he must decrease as Jesus increased (John 3:30). According to tradition, John was born as the days are longest and then steadily decrease, while Jesus was born as the days are shortest and then steadily increase. In many countries this day is celebrated with customs associated with the summer solstice.

June 25, Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the *Augsburg Confession* were presented to Emperor Charles V. The *Augsburg Confession* was written by Philipp Melanchthon, endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time. In 1580 the unaltered *Augsburg Confession* was included in the *Book of Concord* as the principal Lutheran Confessional writing.

June 25, Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church (1497-1560)

Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated on this date as the author of the *Augsburg Confession* (1530). Melanchthon was a fellow reformer of Martin Luther and a professor of Greek at the University of Wittenberg. He was a popular teacher whose classes at six in the morning had as many as six hundred students. His

commentaries on scripture were far more humanist than many reformers, and left a lasting mark upon biblical scholarship, treating the New Testament like classics, and emphasizing the need for history and archaeology for their understanding. As a reformer he was known for his conciliatory spirit and for seeking areas of agreement with fellow Christians.

June 27, Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria (378-444)

Cyril is remembered for his theological articulation of the human and divine natures of Christ. Cyril defended orthodox teachings about the person of Christ against Nestorius, bishop of Constantinople. This conflict also had its roots in the rivalry between Alexandria and Constantinople and eventually led to the Council of Ephesus in 431.

June 28, Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons (c.130-c.202)

Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp, who had been a disciple of John the Apostle. Sent from Lyons to Rome during a time of persecution by emperor Marcus Aurelius, Irenaeus became bishop of Lyons upon his return. In his work, *Against Heresies*, Irenaeus battled against Gnosticism, a sect that emphasized secret knowledge about God rather than apostolic teaching. He argued the church must remain steadfast to apostolic teaching, and was the first to insist that the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, were canonical. Irenaeus was also one of the first to speak of a "catholic" or universal church not limited to local congregations, or contained within national boundaries. In advance of the doctrine of the Trinity, he insisted on the monotheistic unity of the Father and the Son in the work of revelation and redemption.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, 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 & 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 6/29/2025

Third Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 13

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalms 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

Birthdays

6/23 James Frazier

6/23 Natalie Howarth

6/23 Kelsey Smith

6/24 Jett Davey

6/24 Anna Kreps

6/25 Kendal Ferner

6/25 Avery Schwartz

6/28 Brooks Stevenson



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

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Lester Ackerman,

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Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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