



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



JULY 13, 2025

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 15

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today's reading from Deuteronomy reminds us what God commands is not too hard, nor too far away. God's word is very near — in your mouth and in your heart. To love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind leads to loving your neighbor as your self. In today's gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan in which a Samaritan traveler responds to his neighbor with God's love and compassion. Jesus' tells us to "Go and do likewise." God's word is very near to us, urging us to respond to our neighbor in need.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Serenade" for Cello and Piano, D. 957

Franz Schubert
John Brumbaugh, cello

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

Processional Hymn

"As We Gather at Your Table" ELW 522

IN BABILONE

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlides en Contradanser*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

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,

C F 3 Gm C F
fore you; how I love you.

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff has three lines of lyrics, and the second staff has two lines of lyrics. The lyrics are: 1 Fa - ther, 2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be - 3 Spir - it, fore you; how I love you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Karen Feezor, lector

⁹And the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹¹“Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 25:1-10

Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 25:4 (Valerie Shields) from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress



Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

¹To | you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul. ²O my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame; nor let my enemies triumph | over me. ³Let none who look to you be | put to shame; rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous. ⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths. R ⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long. all day long. ⁶Remember, O LORD, your compass- | sion and love, for they are from | everlasting. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD. ⁸You are gracious and up- | right. O LORD; therefore you teach sinners | in your way. ⁹You lead the low- | in justice and teach the lowly your way. ¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R

Second Reading

Colossians 1:1-14

Karen Feezor, lector

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras,

our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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 10:25-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” ELW 800

MORECAMBE

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860; Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart,
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.
2. I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.
3. Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all you own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
4. Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

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

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

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

Michael Thompson, 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.*

Saving God, awaken your church to always respond to our neighbor in need. May we “Go and do likewise,” sharing the compassion we have received from you with our neighbor across the street, across

the nation, and across the world. Bless us to live as a sign of your compassion and love for this world.

God of grace

hear our prayer.

God of hope, You ensured that Your word would be in our hearts and minds so that we could share Your love with others. And through that love, You have blessed us with the fruits of Your creation. You fill our baskets, and share Your blessings so that we might live fulfilling lives here on Earth, while preparing for eternal life in Heaven with You. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of faith, in You we put our trust. Show us Your ways, and teach us Your paths. The world longs for Your loving care, and in our daily lives we humbly ask for Your guidance towards what is right, what is just, and what pleases You so we might live a life worthy of Your name. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Healing God, draw near to all people in need of help, encouragement, and healing, and watch over for the homeless along our roads and those displaced by famine and war. We pray for our extended church family: Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of light, You rescued us from the darkness of death and put us on the path to eternal life through your Son, Jesus Christ. Inspire us to share Your word the way Timothy did, that faith and love might spring eternal from the message of hope that he so joyfully spread to others. Turn our hearts to love for our neighbors, forgiveness of each other, and redemption in Your grace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, you have strengthened the saints with grace and faith to follow your Son, may we also be made strong in faith to follow him and share in the inheritance of the saints in light in your eternal kingdom. 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

“The Gift of Love”

English folk melody O WALY WALY

Setting for choir by Hal H. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide ev'ry deed, by this we worship and are freed. Amen.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Let the Vinyards Be Fruitful” ELW 182

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

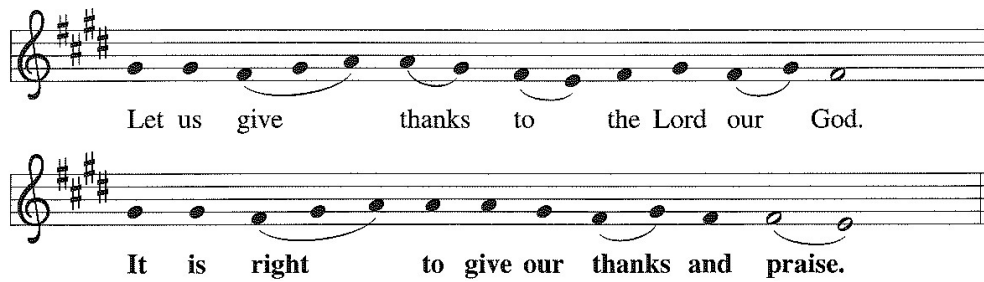
Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

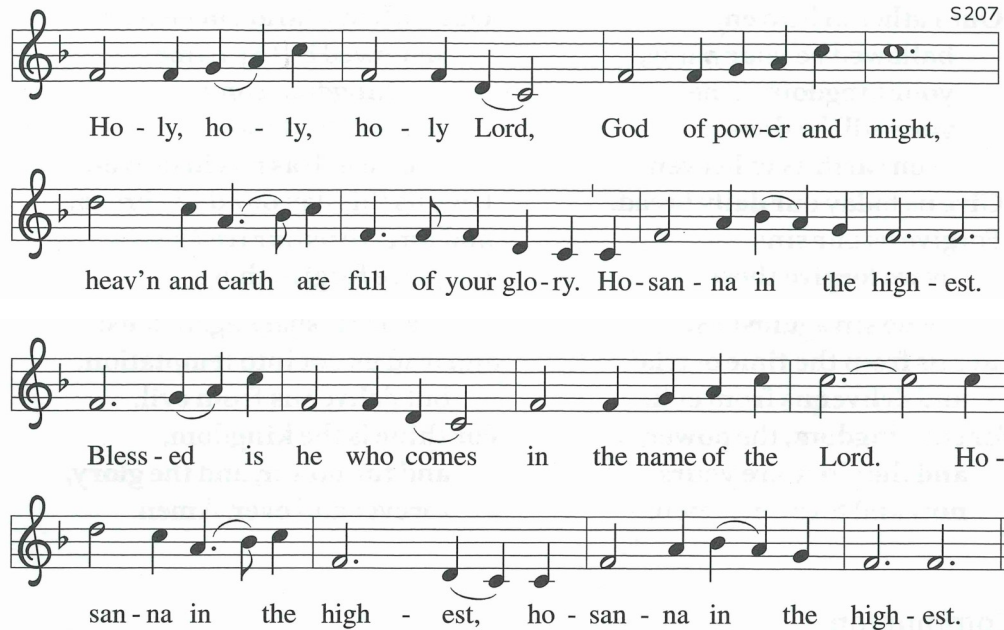


Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Ten



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

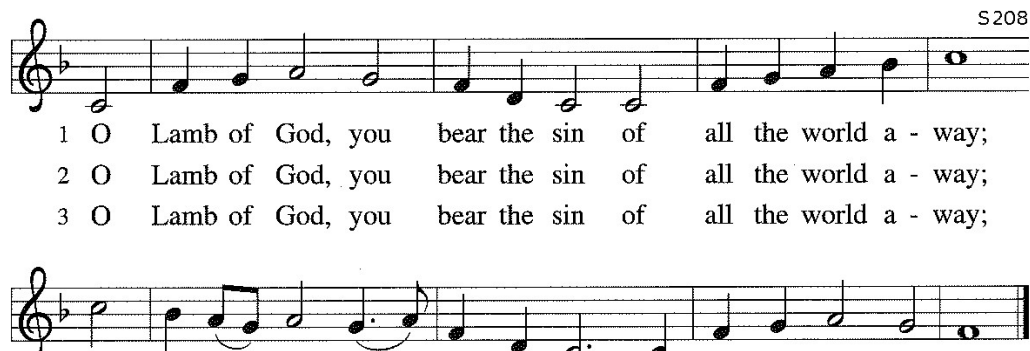
Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, 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.

“When Thou Art Near” BWV 508

Johann Sebastian Bach
Setting for cello and organ

“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. 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 "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult" ELW 696

GALILEE

Text : Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

1. Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me":
2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."
5. Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Worship has ended. You are free to depart or you may remain for the postlude.

Postlude "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" from *Ten Chorale Improvisations*

Organ setting by Michael Bedford



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers:

Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Virginia Molan, A. J. Pridgen, Andrea Long, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Doug Milheim; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir; Jack Richardson, Amy Woodall, cantors; John Brumbaugh, cellist; Kate Suchanek, soprano soloist; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team C; greeters: Dake & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Cliff Edahl, Rebecca Huang, Karen & Kevin Feezor, Susan Lakeman; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Diane Thomas



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

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Ben Thanh Vietnamese Cuisine on July 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Ben Thanh offers fresh and tasty treats that represent the Indo-Chinese region. Soup, pho, pancakes, curries, stir-fries all arrive as delights to be savored. The address is 1806 Windsor Square Drive, Matthews NC 28105. From NC-51, take the Independence Blvd exit toward Charlotte; Windsor Square Drive is the first intersection on Independence Blvd. Turn right at that intersection. Ben Thanh faces Windsor Square Drive. RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by the Sunday before the dinner. All are welcome to share in this summertime treat!

Theology on Tap Thursday, July 17 at 7 pm at Custom Home Pubs in Matthews in the Galleria Shopping Center, 1640 Sardis Road North. Everyone is welcome!

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, July 24, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. The Killing Floor by Lee Child is the first of the author's well-known "Jack Reacher" series. Thirty-six-year-old Jack Reacher (ex-military policeman) is a drifter. He's just passing through Margrove GA, and in less than an hour he's arrested for murder. All he knows is he didn't kill anybody. At

least not here. Not lately. But he doesn't stand a chance of convincing anyone. Not in Margrove. Reacher's investigative skills combined with his physical prowess make him an intimidating opponent for the novel's antagonist, Kliner, and for those involved in the conspiracy in the (fictional) town of Margrove. Please join us in studying this intriguing character and his efforts in overcoming the negative forces against him.

Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims Thank you to all for your donations. If you would like to help, please hover your phone camera over the QR code to connect to 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 (no glass). 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

"As We Gather at Your Table" ELW 522 American Episcopal priest and hymnologist Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) wrote this hymn as part of a tricentennial celebration that commemorated the founding in 1689 of Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He describes the three stanzas this way. The first "calls attention to the two interrelated parts of the Eucharist, Word and Table, by intentionally mixing the language associated with each part." The second "is largely derived from the post-communion prayer of the Eucharist...The third and fourth lines are a reworking of the Dismissal: 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.'" The parable of the banquet in Matthew 22 and Luke 14 stands behind the third stanza. The final line of the hymn quotes the second stanza of Isaac Watt's hymn "Joy to the World" ELW 267, "repeat the sounding joy." Daw's hymn is wedded to the Dutch folk melody **IN BABELONE**, one of three pairings in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*: "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" ELW 582 & "Son of God, Eternal Savior" ELW 655.

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" ELW 800 George Croly, (1780-1860) ordained in the Church of Ireland, spent the majority of his career serving congregations in the poorer sections of London. This is his most popular hymn, published after his death in *Lyra Britannica* (London, 1867). This hymn is based on Galatians 5:25 "If we live by the spirit, let us also be guided by the spirit." It is a personal prayer for God's Spirit to take over our life, purify it, and fill it with the pure love of angels. The symbolism of the dove and the flame for the Holy Spirit is used in the final stanza with these words: "The kindling of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and thy love the flame." The tune **MORECAMBE** was composed originally for "Abide with Me" ELW 629 by Frederick C. Atkinson (1841-1896), and is named for Morecambe, near Bradford, where Atkinson was organist at St. Luke's Church

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

July 17, Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies (c.1484-1566)

Bartolomé de Las Casas was a Spanish priest and a missionary in the Western Hemisphere. He first came to the West while serving in the military, and after becoming a priest served as military chaplain in the conquest of Cuba. He later wrote, "I saw there cruelty on a scale no living being has ever seen or expects to see." For his service he was granted a large estate that included a number of indigenous slaves. In 1514, while preparing to preach on Pentecost, he came to believe that the Spanish colonial system constituted a great injustice toward indigenous peoples. As a result, he granted freedom to his servants. He wrote appealing to the Pope to stop the enslavement of indigenous people, and worked throughout the Caribbean and Central America to halt the brutal treatment of women by military forces, and to promote laws that humanized the process of colonization. In May 1537, in response to protests by de Las Casas and others, Pope Paul III issued "Pastorale officium" in which he wrote, "Though indigenous peoples are not members of the church, they must not be robbed of their freedom or their possessions. They must not be enslaved, but rather, led to faith through preaching and by example."

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons


ST. MARK'S
Soup Kitchen

Bottled Water Appeal

Donate water to those in need

As the temperature rises, our need for water increases dramatically. We are collecting donations for bottled water to distribute through the Soup Kitchen.

**Bring your donations to the church
or order online for direct delivery.**

Your generosity helps those in need!



St. Mark's Prayer List

Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Danyne Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, 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 7/20/2025

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 16

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Birthdays

7/14 Jackie Ellington

7/15 Sue Ann Phillips

7/17 Kim Adden

7/18 Daryn Zimmerman

7/19 Dave Dunlap



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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