



## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



**JULY 20, 2025**

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 16**

**10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Jesus reminds us that we are “worried and distracted by many things.” Amid life’s busyness, Mary’s example reminds us to spend time with Jesus in prayer, because as Paul writes, “in him all things hold together.” Jesus is the “mystery hidden throughout the ages” who has been revealed so that we might see anew Jesus in our neighbor and in the stranger in our midst, welcoming them as Abraham and Sarah welcomed the divine strangers who visited them with good news.*

### GATHERING

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

#### Prelude

“In Thee Is Gladness”

Tune by Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi  
Organ setting by Wilbur Held

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

#### Processional Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ELW 834

ST. DENIO

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.; Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

*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**

“As the Deer”

Martin J. Nystrom



### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### Temple Talk

“Bread for the World”

Charles Lakeman

### WORD

#### First Reading

#### Genesis 18:1-10a

Andrea Long, lector

<sup>1</sup>The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. <sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” <sup>10</sup>Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

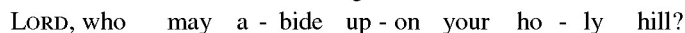
*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

#### Psalm 15

Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors

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



## Second Reading

Andrea Long, lector

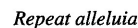
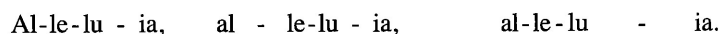
*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia” from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



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

## The Holy Gospel

## Luke 10:38-42

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, <sup>42</sup>but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*"Few things are needed—indeed only one"*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

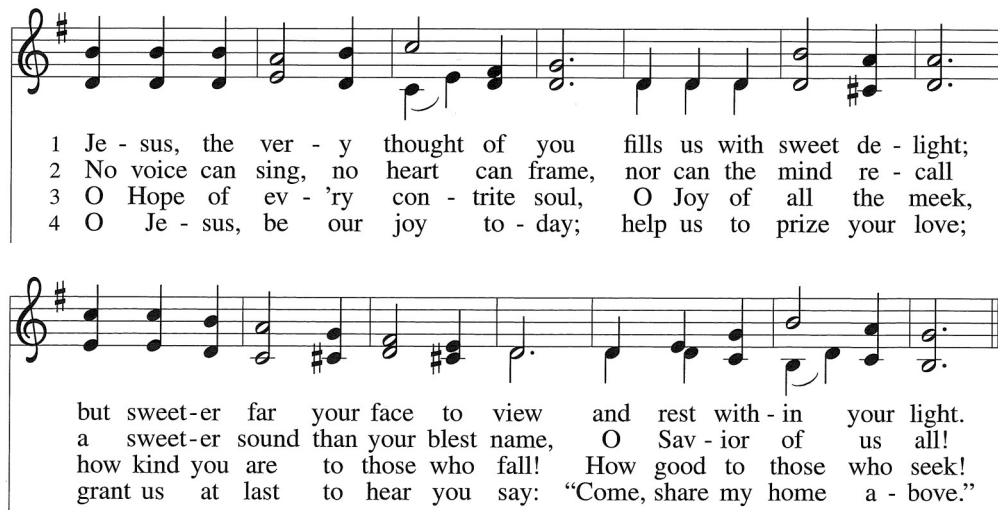
*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

"Jesus, the Very Thought of You" ELW 754

ST. AGNES

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878; Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;  
 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call  
 3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,  
 4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.  
 a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!  
 how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!  
 grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

**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

Charles Lakeman, 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.*

Merciful God, we often stray from your path and fail to live as your faithful disciples. We doubt when you call us to trust, we hesitate when you ask us to serve and get distracted when you invite us to listen. We are often caught up in our own busy-ness and judge others before we examine our own hearts. Open our eyes to see you in the ordinary moments of our lives. Empowered with the hope of the gospel, help us, your church, to recognize your presence in those we meet, especially the lonely, the stranger, and the forgotten. Grant us hearts that are quick to offer hospitality, not out of obligation, but, just as Abraham and Sarah welcomed their divine guests, out of genuine love and compassion. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creator God, source of all life and beauty, we give you thanks for the wonder and diversity of your creation. Forgive us, we pray, for our misuse and exploitation of the earth, for our pollution of land, air, and water, and for our disregard for the delicate balance of ecosystems. Awaken within us a renewed sense of stewardship and responsibility for the world you have given us. Inspire us to live in harmony with creation, to conserve resources, and to protect vulnerable species and habitats. Grant us the wisdom and foresight to be faithful caretakers of your good earth, for the sake of present and future generations. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious and merciful God, we lift to you the cries of all who suffer from hunger and poverty. We confess our complicity in systems that perpetuate want amidst abundance. Open our eyes, Lord, to see Christ in the face of every hungry child, every struggling family, and every person denied their daily bread. Move our hearts to share generously from the gifts you have entrusted to us, and encourage us to advocate for justice and equity in our communities and throughout the world. Inspire leaders and policymakers to enact policies that uplift the poor and hasten the day, O God, when all your children will have enough. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, turn with mercy and healing to all who cry out you in illness, addiction, loneliness, and anxiety. Grant strength, wisdom, and compassion to all caregivers, first-responders, police, and firefighters. We pray for our extended church family: Tom Sehorn, David Pope, 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, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, 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.**

Welcoming God, bless our congregation to be a sacred place of hospitality, that through us the mystery of Christ might be revealed. We ask your continued blessing upon St. Mark's Call Committee as it seeks to discern your will in the calling of an associate pastor so that our ministry of your divine welcome and good news in Jesus Christ might be shared with all people. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the Covenant, as you blessed Abraham and Sarah along with all the saints who followed them through faith, so too, quicken our faith in you to speak and act with love and welcome for all your children so that together we might all share in the inheritance of the saints in light in your eternal 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

“Prayer for Peace”

David M. Cherwien

*O God of love, O King of peace, make wars throughout the world to cease; the wrath of nations now restrain. Give peace, O God, give peace, again. Remember, Lord, thy works of old, the wonders that thy people told; remember not our sin's dark stain. Give peace, O God, give peace, again! Whom shall we trust but thee, O Lord? Where rest but on thy faithful word? None ever called on thee in vain. Give peace, O God, give peace again!*

*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

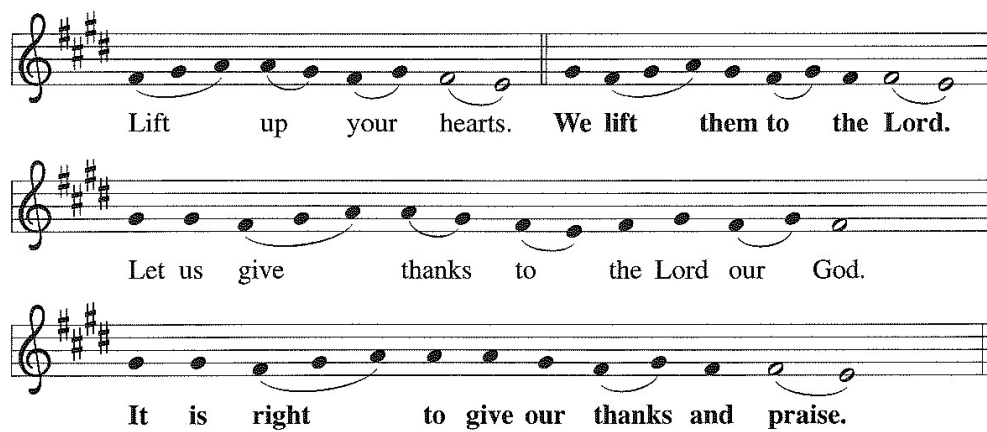
Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

#### Holy Communion

##### The Great Thanksgiving



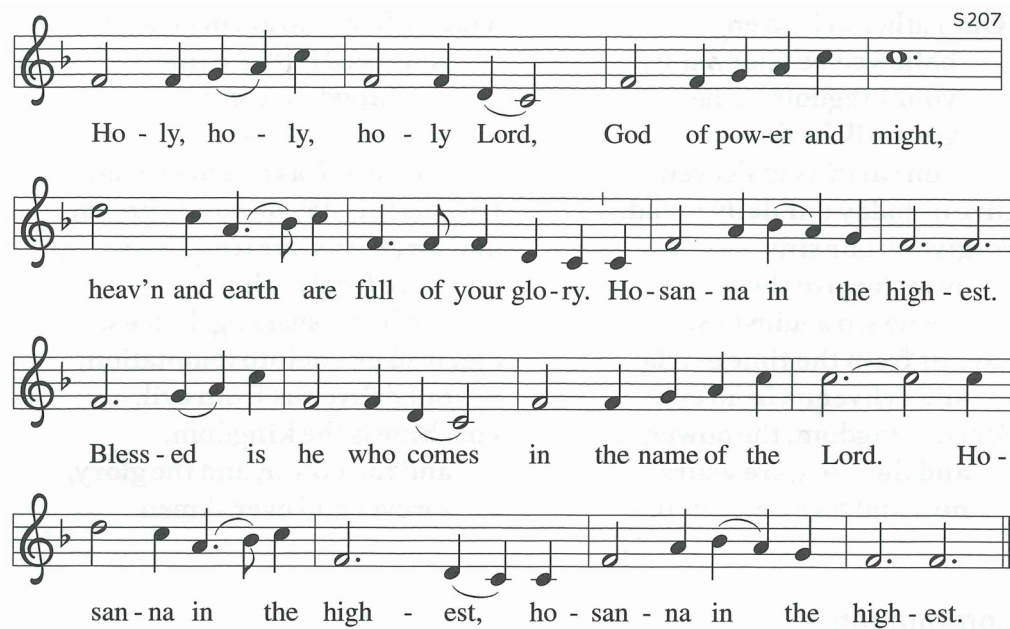


## Proper Preface

### 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

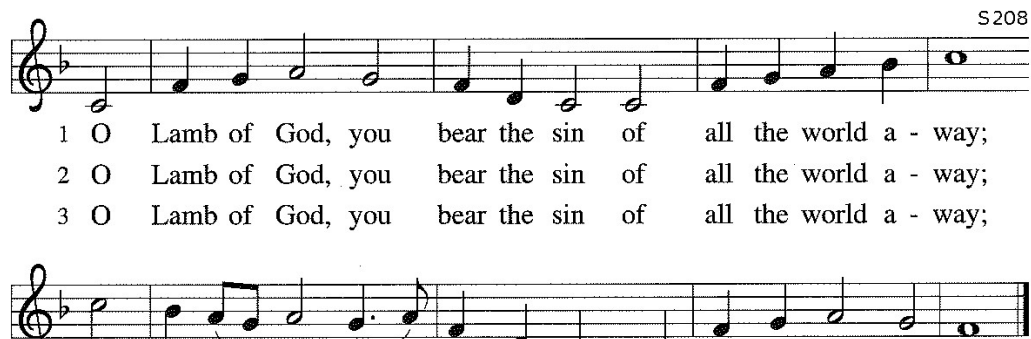
*Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd,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

"Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

Tune ST. AGNES by John B. Dykes  
Setting for organ by Charles Callahan

*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

“O Savior, Precious Savior” ELW 820

ANGEL’S STORY

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879; Music: Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929

1. O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love;  
O name of might and favor, all other names above:  
we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;  
we praise thee and confess thee, our holy Lord and King.
2. O bringer of salvation, who wondrously hast wrought,  
thyself the revelation of love beyond our thought:  
we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;  
we praise thee and confess thee, our gracious Lord and King.
3. In thee all fullness dwelleth, all grace and pow’r divine;  
the glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is thine.  
We worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;  
we praise thee and confess thee, our glorious Lord and King.
4. Oh, grant the consummation of this our song above,  
in endless adoration and everlasting love;  
then shall we praise and bless thee where perfect praises ring,  
and evermore confess thee, our Savior and our King!

### 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

“Trumpet Tune in D Major”

John Stanley

✙

✙

✙

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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Dale & 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; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir, Jack Richardson, directing; Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors; Elizabeth (Bibba) Whitener, guest organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Andrea Long; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team C; greeters: Millie Cansler, Dave & Eileen Dunlap; communion assistants: Tom Puky, Chris & Palmer Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Doug Milheim, Janice Miller



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## *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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

## *Coming Up at St. Mark's*

### **Worship and Congregational Life**

**Altar Flowers today** are given in honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of Charles and Susan Lakeman.

**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.

**North Carolina Baroque Orchestra Concert 8.8.25 at 7 pm**

### **American Guild of Organists Recital 8.17.25 at 4 pm**

featuring Les Ackerman with trumpeters Alex Willborn and Jon Kaplan.

### **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*

**"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"** ELW 834 Scottish Pastor, Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) wrote this hymn in six stanzas and included it in his *Hymns of Christ and the Christian Life* (London, 1867). The four stanzas included in our hymnal are based on I Timothy 1:17, "To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever". Randy Stevens writes in his book *Be Still My Soul*, "In this hymn of pure praise, Smith acknowledges that at times, God seems hidden from us--inaccessible--not because of any lack of love on his part but rather because we are not capable of beholding his full glory. It is the splendor of light that hides him". In 1906 British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams was the first to pair this text to the eighteenth-century Welsh tune **ST. DENIO**. The tune title refers to St. Denis, the patron saint of France. **ST. DENIO** is based on a traditional Welsh ballad "A Hundred Years from Now" popular in the nineteenth century.

## *This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar*

### **July 22, Mary Magdalene, Apostle**

The gospels report Mary Magdalene was one of the women of Galilee who followed Jesus. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial. When she went to the tomb on the first day of the week to anoint Jesus' body, she was the first person to whom the risen Lord appeared. She returned to the disciples with this news and has been called "the apostle to the apostles" for her proclamation of the resurrection. Because John's gospel describes Mary as weeping at the tomb, she is often portrayed in art with red eyes. Icons depict her standing by the tomb and holding a bright red egg, a symbol of the resurrection.

### **July 23, Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church (c.1303-1373)**

Birgitta was married at age thirteen and had four daughters with her husband. She was a woman of some standing who, in her early thirties, served as the chief lady-in-waiting to the queen of Sweden. She was widowed at the age of thirty-eight, shortly after she and her husband had made a religious pilgrimage. Following the death of her husband, the religious dreams and visions that had begun in her youth occurred more regularly. Her devotional commitments led her to give to the poor and needy all that she owned, and she began to live a more ascetic life. She founded an order of monks and nuns, the Order of the Holy Savior (Brigittines), whose superior was a woman. Today the Society of St. Birgitta (*Societas Sanctae Birgittae*) is a laypersons' society that continues her work of prayer and charity.

### **July 25, James, Apostle**

James is one of the sons of Zebedee, and counted as one of the twelve disciples. Together with his brother John they were nicknamed "sons of thunder." The gospels Matthew and Mark describe this brashness in their request for Jesus to grant them places of honor in the kingdom, and also in asking Jesus for permission to send down fire upon a Samaritan village that had not welcomed them. James was the first of the Twelve to suffer martyrdom and is the only apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in scripture (Acts 12:2). He is referred to as James the Elder to distinguish him from James the Less, commemorated with Philip on May 1, and James of Jerusalem, commemorated on October 23.

*Adapted from Sundays and Seasons*

### St. Mark's Prayer List

Tom Sehorn, David Pope, 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.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests ([pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

#### Readings for 7/27/2025

##### Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/

##### Lectionary 17

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15

Luke 11:1-13

#### Birthdays

7/20 Larry Dagenhart, Sr.

7/20 Dawn Schwartz

7/23 Beverly Timm

7/24 Barbara Baker



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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))



### *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**

[pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Lester Ackerman,**

**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**

[les@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:les@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**

[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator**

[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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