



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



JULY 6, 2025

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 14
10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

In the reading from Galatians, Paul encourages us to always work for the good of all in both church and in the world. We are to live following the rule of peace and mercy. Jesus' sending of the seventy-two encourages us to work for a plentiful harvest of God's kingdom alive in Christ Jesus. We too are to announce the peace of Christ and the nearness of God's kingdom. In doing so, we also rejoice that our names are written in heaven!

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" from *Three Gospel Favorites for Organ*

Tune FAITHFULNESS by William M. Runyan

Setting for organ by Dan Miller

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

Processional Hymn

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" ELW 888

MATERNA

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929; Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain;
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life:
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.
3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

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 for a single melodic line in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it. The fourth staff contains the melody for the fourth line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it. The fifth staff contains the melody for the fifth line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it. The sixth staff contains the melody for the sixth line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it. The seventh staff contains the melody for the seventh line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it. 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The ninety-ninth staff contains the melody for the ninety-ninth line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it. The hundredth staff contains the melody for the hundredth line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 66:10-14

Flora Chance, lector

¹⁰Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast, that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. ¹²For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream, and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm and bounced on her knees. ¹³As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. ¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass, and it shall be known that the power of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 66:1-9

Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 66:4 (Robert Buckley Farlee) from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress



Be joyful in God, | all you lands; be joyful, | all the earth. ²Sing the glory | of God's name; sing the glory | of God's praise. ³Say to God, "How awesome | are your deeds! Because of your great strength your enemies | cringe before you. ⁴All the earth bows | down before you, sings to you, sings | out your name." R ⁵Come now and see the | works of God, how awesome are God's deeds | toward all people. ⁶God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the wa- | ter on foot, and there we re- | joiced in God. ⁷Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch o- | ver the nations; let no rebels ex- | alt themselves. ⁸Bless our | God, you peoples; let the sound of | praise be heard. ⁹Our God has kept us a- | mong the living and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R

Second Reading

Galatians 6:7-16

Flora Chance, lector

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith. ¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to

the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God

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 10:1-11, 16-20

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“*Work for the good and peace of all*”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

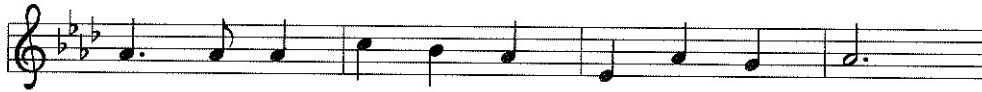
“God’s Work, Our Hands” ACS 1000 from *All Creation Sings*

EARTH AND ALL STARS

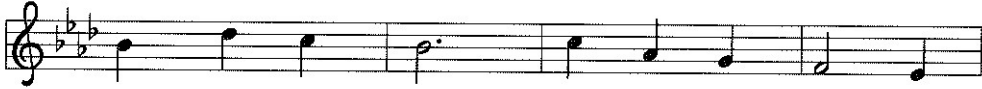
Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987 © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin Augsburg Fortress



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
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Please be seated.

Holy Baptism and Reception of New Member

Baptism of Finley Hope Lepkowski (daughter) and Michael Andrew Lepkowski (father)

Reception of New Member, Rebecca Lynn Lepkowski (mother)

Presentation

*The candidates for baptism and sponsors gather at the font,
and the pastor addresses the assembly.*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to a new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The sponsors present the candidates.

I present Michael Andrew Lepkowski for Holy Baptism. (Pastor McKenzie)

I present Finley Hope Lepkowski for Holy Baptism. (Kate Zumas)

The pastor addresses the candidate for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, Michael Andrew do you desire to do be baptized into Christ?

I do.

The pastor addresses the parents.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn and trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

The pastor addresses the sponsors.

Do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

I do.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support Michael Andrew and Finley Hope and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

The pastor addresses the candidates. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The pastor addresses the candidates, sponsors and assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The pastor leads the thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism

Michael Andrew / Finley Hope, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The pastor continues.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the pastor prays.

Sustain Michael Andrew / Finley Hope with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Michael Andrew / Finley Hope, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

We welcome Rebecca Lynn Lepkowski into the body of Christ at St. Mark's. Rebecca was confirmed at St. Paul's Third Lutheran Church (ELCA), Easton, PA.

Let us welcome the newly baptized, Michael and Finley, and Rebecca Lynn Lepkowski as members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative redeeming word to all the world.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor McKenzie, prayers

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 send your church into the world with a message of peace that in Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen us by the example of all the faithful people of God who continue to creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, all the earth sings out your name. Inspire all people to give thanks for your ongoing creation and to use it wisely. Where ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing and help us to care for your world

so that all people might share in its abundance. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Lord of the nations, we humbly come before your throne of grace and love to offer our gratitude for the nation in which we live. As we give thanks for independence and freedom, help this nation and our leaders to never grow weary of doing good, working with wisdom, mercy, and justice for all people. We beseech you to also guide the nations of the world into paths of peace and the mutual sharing of our gifts so that all nations might live and work together with security and peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy Comforter, grant healing and wholeness to all who suffer illness, addiction, loneliness, and fear. Grant strength to all caregivers that they might be your hands of healing as they care for many. We pray for our extended church family: 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.

Sending God, your harvest is plentiful; make us laborers and companions with one another in our mutual ministry together at St. Mark's. We pray for the work of St. Mark's Call Committee that they might discern the candidate that the Holy Spirit is leading us to. In all things, use us to be heralds of your gospel of love for this world and its people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Lord of Hosts, you have written our names in heaven and we thank you for those who have witnessed to us and now rest in your kingdom. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at the last into life eternal in you and the entire communion of saints. 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 "Peace I Leave with You" Rob Landes

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you; not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.*

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“This Is My Song” ELW 887 stanza one

FINLANDIA

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Co., Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Co.;
Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957 © Breitkopf & Hartel

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

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

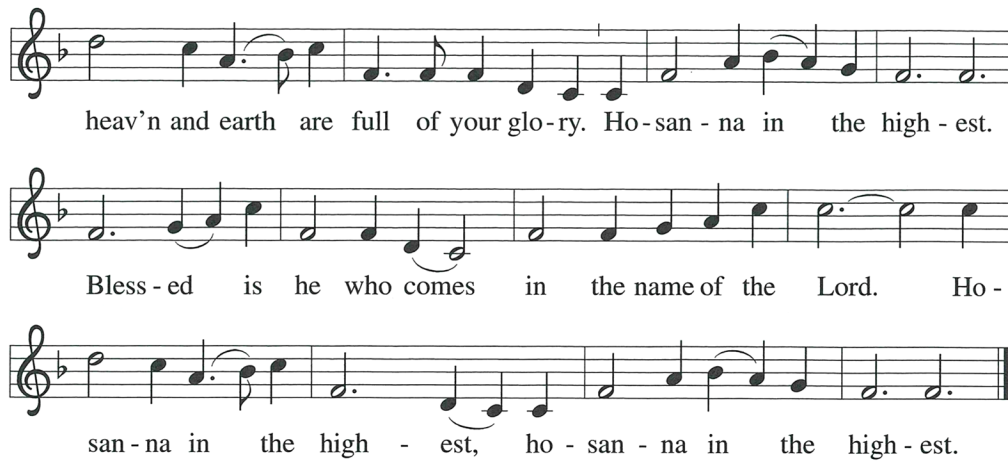
Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Ten

S 207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



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.

“Variations on ‘My Country, ‘Tis of Thee’”

Tune: AMERICA

Organ setting by Charles Wesley

(played this morning on the pipes of the gallery organ)

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

“Before You, Lord, We Bow” ELW 893

DARWELL’S 148TH

Text Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, alt.; Music: John Darwall, 1731-1789.

1. Before you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns above and rules the world below with boundless pow’r and love. Our thanks we bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!

2. May ev'ry mountain height, each vale and forest green, shine forth in wisdom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev'ry tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grateful song.
3. Earth, hear your maker's voice; your great redeemer own; believe, obey, rejoice, and worship God alone. Cast down your pride, your sin deplore, and bow before the Crucified.
4. And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev'ry land from all its rending tombs send forth a glorious band, a countless throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king salvation's song!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Andrea Long, Tom Puky, John Simon, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir; Jack Richardson, Taylor McNamara, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team C; 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

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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

Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of the Baptisms of Michael Lepkowski and his daughter Finley Hope by the family.

Welcome to New Members! [10:30] Please take a moment to welcome The Lepkowski family - Mike, Rebecca and Finley - as they are received into membership. May God continue to bless them on their journey with Jesus Christ and among God's people at St. Mark's!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Men's Group invites all the men of the congregation to join us on Saturday, July 12, 2025 at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. Please come to help plan the

service project for Lutheran Disaster Response.

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".



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!



Music Notes

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" ELW 888 Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1929) head of the English department at Wellesley College, MA, wrote this hymn in July 1893 during a trip to Pikes Peak, Colorado. She writes, "it was then and there, looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening line of the hymn floated into my mind." On the way to Colorado, she stopped at the Columbian World Exposition in Chicago, where the "white city" exhibition was the source for the words "alabaster cities" in the final stanza. Samuel A. Ward (1848-1903) organist at Grace Episcopal Church in New York City is the composer of the tune **MATERNA**. It was first paired with the hymn "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem" (1888), this text being the inspiration for the name **MATERNA** or 'motherly'. It wasn't until 1912 that Ward's tune was paired with Bates's hymn.

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" ELW 733 was written in 1923 by Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960). The refrain is from Lamentations 3:23 "they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness", as well as a verse from James 1:17 in the first stanza "there is no shadow of turning with thee; due to change." Kenneth Osbeck writes: "of the many gospel hymns written on the theme of God's goodness and faithfulness, this hymn stands out like a beacon of light. While many hymns are born out of a particular dramatic experience, this hymn was simply the result of the author's morning by morning realization of God's personal faithfulness". William M. Runyan (1870-1957) wrote the tune **FAITHFULNESS** for this hymn at the request of the hymn's author

"God's Work, Our Hands" ACS 1000 from *All Creation Sings*. In 2019 the ELCA sponsored a competition for a new hymn based on the theme "God's Work, Our Hands". The first Sunday after Labor Day had been designated as "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, where congregations are encouraged to emphasize works of service in their local communities. More than 120 submissions were received and judged, with this hymn by Wayne L. Wold (b.1954) declared the winner. David N. Johnson (1922-1987) is the composer of the tune **EARTH AND ALL STARS**.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

July 6, Jan Hus, martyr (c.1369-1415)

Jan Hus was a Bohemian priest who spoke against abuses in the church of his day in many of the same ways that Luther would a century later. He preached against the withholding of the cup from the laity at the Eucharist and against the selling of indulgences. He was found guilty of heresy by the Council of Constance (1414-1417) and burned at the stake. The followers of Hus became known as the Czech Brethren, and eventually continued as the Moravian Church.

July 11, Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino (c.480-c.547)

Benedict is known as the father of Western monasticism. He was educated in Rome but was appalled by the decline of life around him. He went to live as a hermit, and a community of monks came to gather around him. In the prologue of his rule for monasteries, he wrote that his intent in drawing up regulations was "to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome." It is that moderate spirit that characterizes his rule and the monastic communities that are formed by it. The tradition of Benedict still encourages a generous spirit of hospitality in that visitors to Benedictine communities are to be welcomed as Christ himself.

July 12, Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala (1866-1931)

Söderblom was a Swedish theologian, ecumenist, and social activist, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930. Söderblom was Archbishop of Uppsala, the head of the Lutheran Church in Sweden. He saw the value of the liturgical movement, and valued the work of liberal Protestant scholars, believing that social action was a first step on the path toward a united Christianity. He organized the Universal Christian Council on Life and Work, one of the organizations that, in 1948, came together to found the World Council of Churches.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marylin 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 7/13/2025

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/

Lectionary 15

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalms 25:1-10

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Birthdays

7/6 Hubert McLendon, Jr.

7/6 Chris Stevenson

7/6 Nick Wartner

7/8 Joel Ritchie

7/8 Larry Elder

7/10 Erin Wall

7/11 Linda Carter



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)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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