



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



AUGUST 17, 2025

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / CAMP SUNDAY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus is the great divide in human history who invites our undivided attention and devotion. Surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses" who by faith were made strong in weakness, we also run with perseverance the race that is set before us, always looking to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of faith." His word is like fire and a hammer; he will rescue the weak and the needy from the hand of the wicked.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

Tune GREENTYLER by Richard Colligan

Setting for organ by Kristina Langlois

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

Processional Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation" ELW 796

FOUNDATION

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787. Alt.; Music: Early American

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
3. "When through fi'ry trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
4. "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Please be seated.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

“Here I Am Lord” ELW 574

HERE I AM. LORD

© 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

1. “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”

Chorus: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, ‘till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them, whom shall I send?” *Chorus*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Gloria

“Set a Fire”

Will Reagan

Jonathan Lakeman, Sophie Schwartz

Will Reagan © 2010 United Pursuit Music

No place I'd rather be
No place I'd rather be
No place I'd rather be
Than here in your love, here is your love
So set a fire down in my soul
That I can't contain and I can't control
I want more of you, God
I want more of you, God.

Camp Talks

“Synod Camp Sunday”

Jonathan Lakeman, Sophie Schwartz

WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Cindy Little, lector

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

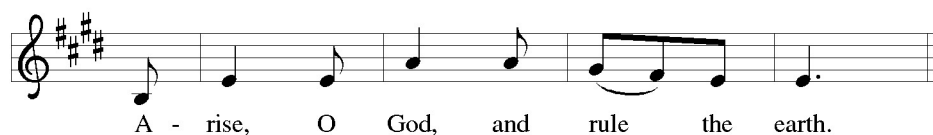
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 82

Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 82:8 refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods: "How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked? Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy; rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked. R They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'" Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own. R

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:29-12:1-2

Cindy Little, lector

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord

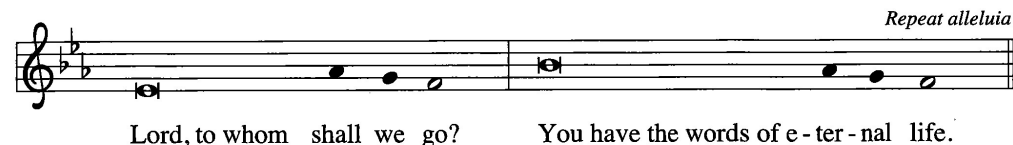
Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia" from Holy Communion Setting Twelve

Text Irish, 8th cen.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; Music: Irish traditional



The Holy Gospel Luke 12:49-56

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” ⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“By faith—Look to Jesus”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me” ACS 1084

GREEN TYLER

Text & Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967 T&M © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho-ly, great cloud of wit-ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning,
4 Walk-ing be-hind to hem my jour-ney, go-ing a-head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up-hold me:
es en-fold; proph-ets, a-pos-tles, an-gels wit-ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan-et:
light my way, and from be-neath, a-bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

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

Mike Doyne, 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.*

Heavenly Father we give you thanks for your gifts of life, love and your church. We revere your ceaseless love and patience, which we seek to emulate. We offer praise to you for sharing your Son with us. May we model our lives after Him in order to follow you more closely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of Life, sustain crops and farms and bring creation to a season of bountiful harvest. Bless farmers, migrant laborers, all who tend livestock, and those who care for the land. In a nation blessed with abundance, make us mindful of all who live daily with hunger and help us to share with those in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all, guide us to be accepting and loving of others no matter how different they are from us. Guide our leaders, that they may not be driven by self-serving greed, deceit, and dishonor. Help them make decisions to the benefit all peoples and this planet. Help us to live Christ-like lives, helping those in pain, serving those in need and embracing those in need of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of Life, amid war and despair, give justice to the weak and the orphan; deliver the sick, the lonely, and the addicted; and strengthen the dying with faith in you. Surround our loved ones with your healing and love: Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Bill Coppedge, Dale Hopp, Nanette Temple, 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, 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All knowing God, we seek your forgiveness for our sins, our omissions, and thoughtless deeds. Guide us that we may learn from past mistakes so that we may live lives that reflect the grace and goodness of your Son Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of Life, we praise you for the faithful cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, always looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

“What Is the World Like”

Sally Ann Morris

Text: Adam M. L. tice, b. 1979; Music: Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952 T&M © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

What is the world like when God's will is done? Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive: roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun. This is how God moves us each to believe. What is the world like when God's will is done? Witness the wandering child coming home; watch as the parent breaks into a run. This is how God longs for us when we roam. What is the world like when God's will is done? No more is neighbor just ally or friend; peace thrives in places where once there was none. This is how God works when rivalries end. These are the stories that Jesus imparts, filled with the Spirit who joins us as one. Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts, this is a new world where God's will is done.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” ELW 182

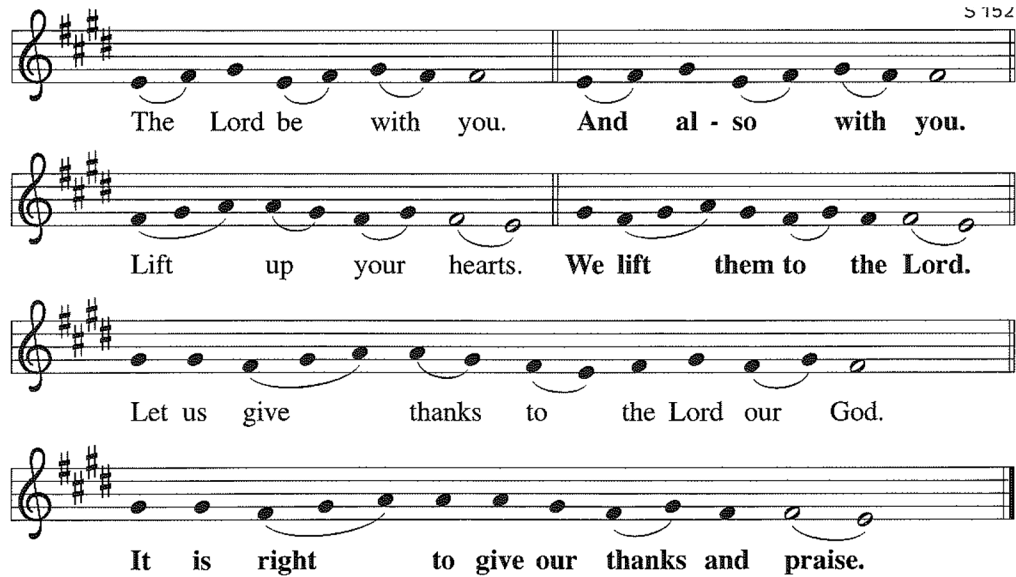
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

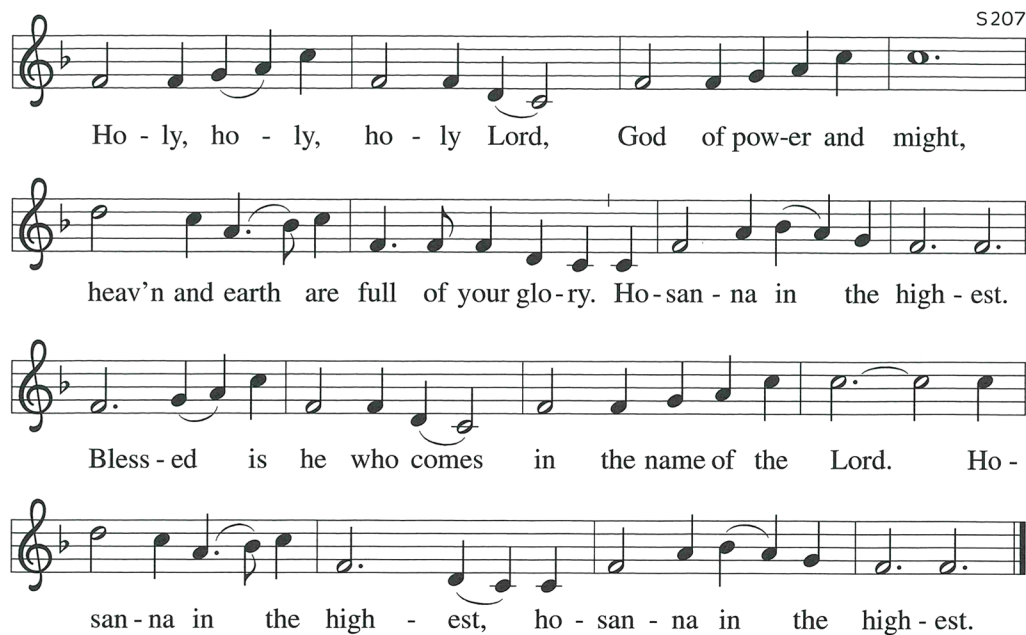
S 152

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Ten



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

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

S207

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

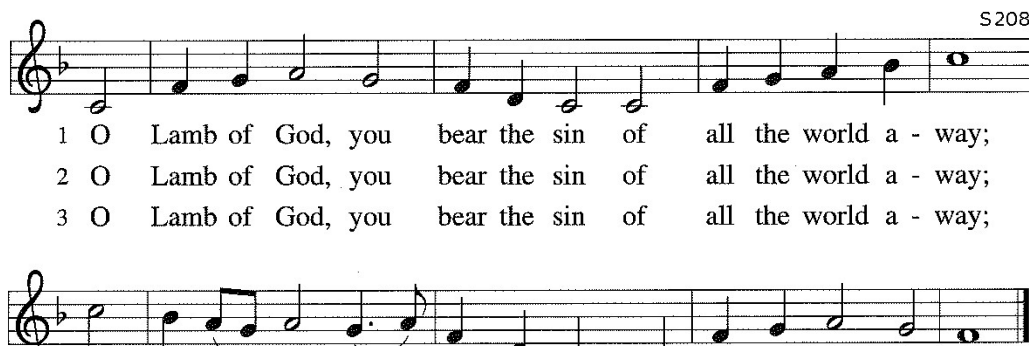
Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month distribution is by intinction. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are always available.

Communion Music

"O Lamb of God"

Holy Communion Setting Ten

S208



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.

"Reverie on 'How Firm a Foundation'"

Alice Jordan

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

“On Our Way Rejoicing” ELW 537

HERMAS

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.; Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

1. On our way rejoicing gladly let us go
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy'
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

Refrain: On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

2. Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing now and evermore. *Refrain*

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” from *Te Deum*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

✙

✙

✙

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Mike Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Cindy Little; live streaming camera: A. J. Bridgen; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson ; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Virginia Molan, Tom Puky, Palmer Steenson, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Janice Miller, Diane Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir, Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Marty Schwartz; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team A; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Tom Puky; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Susan league, Charles Lakeman



Parish News

From the pastor -

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

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

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

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Camp Sunday Today [10:30] We are thankful for the witness of our young people about the vital role of

church camps in the life of many in our Synod!

Concert today at 4 pm Join us for the American Guild of Organists Recital featuring Les Ackerman with trumpeters Alex Willborn and Jon Kaplan. Admission is free, donations to support the Stigall Scholarship Fund for young organists.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at 1900 Mexican Restaurant on August 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM. 1900 Mexican is located at 5110 Park Rd, Charlotte NC 28209 (in Harris-Teeter plaza near intersection of Selwyn Rd and Park Rd. 1900 Mexican prides itself on offering the flavors unique to Mexico City. The décor is bright and upbeat. The flavors are fresh and varied among the menu entries. A pleasant and tasty meal is guaranteed. A complete bar is available, with the "largest variety of mezcal in Metrolina". Start with a guacamole made to order and proceed through entrées that delight taste buds. This dinner has something that can please everyone. We hope that you will join the fun! All are welcome! RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert to assure seating.

Theology on Tap will be held Thursday, August 21 at 7pm at Brewers at Yancey, 4001 Yancey Rd. All are welcome.

Charlotte Area Lutheran Men Annual Chicken and Corn Roast Saturday, 8/23 from 12-3:00 pm, Morning Star Lutheran, Matthews. Our keynote speaker will be Mark Turner, Scout Executive, Mecklenburg County Council. Take a look at a Tesla CyberTruck Beast! \$10.00 per person. RSVP to Mike Doyne , Steve McCall or Kevin Feezor by 8/17. All Lutheran Men and their sons/grandsons are welcome!

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, August 28, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. All are welcome to join us in discussing *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon. During intermission at the famed La Fenice opera house in Venice, Italy, a notoriously difficult and widely disliked German conductor succumbs to cyanide poisoning—and suspects abound. Commissario Guido Brunetti, a native Venetian, sets out to unravel the mystery behind the high-profile murder. To do so, he calls on his knowledge of Venice, its culture, and its dirty politics. Along the way, he finds the crime may have roots going back decades—and that revenge, corruption, and even Italian cuisine may play a role. For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.

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.markslutheranchlotte234/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 The 1st delivery of our Summer Food Drive was recently delivered to Nourish Up by Marc and Susan Ginns weighing 115 lbs. Thank you congregation, but please be aware the need continues for those families with school aged children no longer receiving free breakfast and lunches at school. This puts a tremendous strain on the family budget as well as on Nourish Up's budget. The next time you grocery shop please put a couple "child friendly" items in your cart - canned pasta entrees, canned fruit, cereal, powdered milk, peanut butter and squeeze bottled jelly. Thank you from the Social Ministry Committee

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

"How Firm a Foundation" ELW 796 The authorship of this hymn text has always been a mystery to hymnologists. We know it was first published in 1787 in a hymnal compiled by Dr. John Rippon (1751-1836), pastor for sixty-three years at Carter's Lane Baptist Church, London, England. The hymn appeared anonymously in his collection with the author indicated merely as "K", and in later reprints "Keen". Since the music director in Dr. Rippon's church was named Richard Keene, it is generally accepted that he was the author of the text. There are many scriptural references: Isaiah 43:1-5, Isaiah 41:10, 2 Corinthians 12:9, and II Timothy 2:19. It is basically about the promises of God, and our hymnal uses quotation marks for all the stanzas in which various promises are quoted. The original hymn has seven stanzas, Evangelical Lutheran Worship includes four. Here is an additional stanza (7): "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for Repose, I will not, I will not desert to his Foes; That soul, tho' all Hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never--no never--no never forsake." The tune **FOUNDATION** is one of the many anonymous American tunes that first appeared in an 1832 collection by Joseph Funk, a German Mennonite based in the Shenandoah Valley area of Virginia.


"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" ACS 1084 Our Hymn of the Day comes to us from the pen of American writer, composer and theologian Richard Bruxvoort Colligan (b. 1967). This text is a lorica, a "protective armor or breastplate". A lorica was intended to be sung while dressing, arming oneself for battle, or traveling, as a protection against spiritual enemies. Its meaning is likely to be extended more generally to a prayer for the indwelling and surrounding of Christ with us on our daily journeys. The tune **GREEN TYLER** was composed by Colligan while he and his family lived on Tyler Street in New Brighton, Minnesota. Colligan says that the tune "started as a lullaby for our newborn son Sam."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

August 20, Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

Bernard was a Cistercian monk who became an abbot of great spiritual depth. He was a mystical writer deeply devoted to the humanity of Christ who emphasized the inner experience of prayer and contemplation. He was critical of one of the foremost theologians of the day, Peter Abelard, because he believed Abelard's approach to faith was too rational and did not provide sufficient room for mystery. Bernard's devotional writings are still read today. His sermon on the Song of Solomon treats the Old Testament book as an allegory of Christ's love for humanity. Bernard wrote several hymns that are still sung today in translation, including "Jesus, the Very Thought of You" (ELW 754).

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*



OFFERING
of LETTERS


We can end hunger in our time.

Churches, charities, food banks, and nonprofit organizations can't solve hunger alone.

As people of faith, we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasure for a greater purpose. Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger.

Policy change can do much more than charity can.

Open your mouth for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without help."



"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice."

Proverbs 31:8a NIV

St. Mark's Prayer List

Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Nanette Temple, 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, 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 8/24/2025

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 21

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalms 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Birthdays

8/17 Carlene Schock

8/18 Heidi Holzinger

8/19 Vera Otterstadt

8/22 Doug Milheim

8/23 Barbara Mobley



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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