



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



AUGUST 24, 2025

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 21

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Tune LOBE DEN HERREN

Settings by Gerhard Krapf and Johann Gottfried Walther

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

Processional Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858

LOBE DEN HERREN

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: *Erneueren Gesangbuch*, part II, Stralsund, 1665

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
4. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Please be seated.

Welcome

Meg Fielding, Lay Preacher

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

“Kyrie eleison” from *All Creation Sings*

Holy Communion Setting Twelve

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Temple Talk

“Bread for the World”

Jason Blanton

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Marty Schwartz, lector

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fall. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. ¹³If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; ¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 103:1-8

Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 103:4 (John Paradowski) refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



Bless the LORD, | O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name. ²Bless the LORD, | O my soul, and forget not | all God's benefits--³who forgives | all your sins and heals all | your diseases; ⁴who redeems your life | from the grave and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R ⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's. ⁶O LORD, you provide | vindication and justice for all who | are oppressed. ⁷You made known your | ways to Moses and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel. ⁸LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18-29

Marty Schwartz, lector

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are

enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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 13:10-17**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Power and control”

Meg Fielding, Lay Preacher

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“O Day of Rest and Gladness” ELW 521

ELLACOMBE

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt. Music: German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X.L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

1. O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright:
on you the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing, "Holy, holy, holy," to the great God triune.
2. On you, at earth's creation, the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious the Spirit sent from heav'n;
and thus on you, most glorious, a three-fold light was giv'n.
3. Today on weary nations the heav'nly manna falls;
to holy convocations the silver trumpet calls,
where gospel light is glowing with pure and radiant beams
and living water flowing with soul-refreshing streams.
4. New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.
We sing to you our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
the church its voice up-raises to you, blest Three in One.

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

Melissa Smith, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, You are the one who loosens bonds and lifts burdens. We recall how Jesus saw the bent-over woman and called her beloved. Open our eyes, Lord, to see those around us who are bowed down by pain, by shame, by weariness—and give us the courage to speak healing words. May our ministry at St. Mark's be marked by compassion that restores dignity and by worship that stirs us to justice. Let us not turn away from the needs of our neighbor, but delight in the sabbath that heals. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of Life, you inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of Compassion, Your goodness and mercy are everlasting, yet our world remains fractured by violence, inequity, and fear. Pour out your Spirit, Lord, on weary cities and anxious hearts. Bring rest to those who labor without pause, and companionship to those who feel alone. Bless first responders, community leaders, and all who work to make neighborhoods safer. May your justice roll down like waters and your grace rise in us every dawn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Comforter, you satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness. We pray for our extended church family: Tom Tolbert, Dr. Sam Davis, 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. Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, As summer begins to draw to a close, we give thanks for its gifts—rest, beauty, renewal. And now, as backpacks are filled and buses return to the streets, we ask your blessing upon students, teachers, administrators, and staff. Protect our schools, O Lord—may they be havens of learning and safety. Be present in the hallways and classrooms, on playgrounds and at kitchen tables where homework is done. Watch over families as they juggle schedules and seek balance. And may St. Mark's continue to be a place that supports, uplifts, and prays for the young ones you love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of Hosts, with all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

Sacred Harp Tune

Setting for choir and organ by Gary Matheny

O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest! The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest. O wondrous food of blessing, O, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this gift possessing with praises overflows! My Lord, you here have led me within your holiest place, and here yourself have fed me with treasures of your grace; for you have freely given what earth could never buy, the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die. You gave me all I wanted; this food can death destroy. And you have freely granted the cup of endless joy. My Lord, I do not merit the favor you have shown, and all my soul and spirit bow before your throne.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“In the Singing” ELW 466 stanza one

BREAD OF PEACE

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931; Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926; T&M © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.

1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pec - tant, o - pen,

in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,

Refrain

Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;

Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

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 *(spoken)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Ten

S207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remembered that “in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.”

We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

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.

"Improvisation on 'Restore in Us, O God'"

Tune BAYLOR by Hal H. Hopson
 Organ setting by Joseph A. Bognar

Communion Hymn

"Come, Ye Disconsolate" ELW 607

CONSOLATOR

Text: Thomas Moore, 1779-1852, sts. 1-2; Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872, st. 3; Music: Samuel Webbe Sr., 1740-1816



1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish;
 2 Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,
 3 Here see the Bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing

come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.
 hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure;
 forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.

Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
 here speaks the Com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,
 Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing

earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
 "Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
 earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

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.

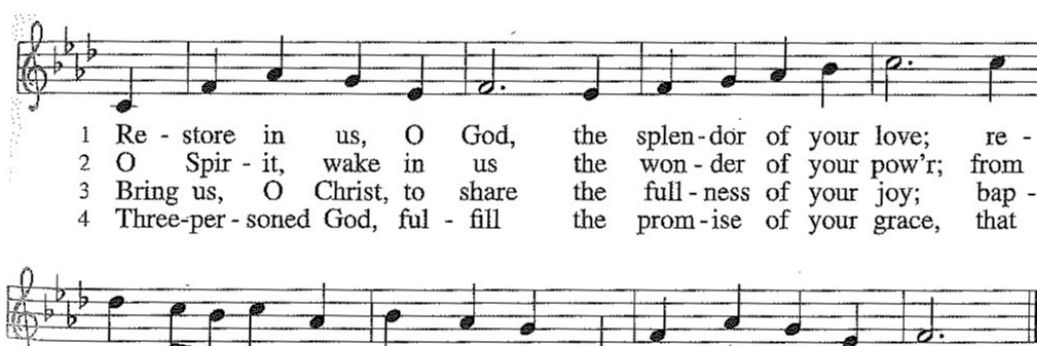
Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Restore in Us, O God” ELW 328

BAYLOR

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933 © 1985 Hope Publishing Co.



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that

new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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

Postlude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” Organ setting by David Cherwien

✙ ✙ ✙

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Worship Leaders: Meg Fielding, Lay Preacher; prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Marty Schwartz; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir, Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Lisa Barnette; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team A; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Rebecca Huang, Charles Lakeman, Virginia Molan, Tom Puky; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Meg Fielding, Dawn Schwartz

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

Altar Flowers today are given with love by Marc and Susan Ginns in memory of Susan's parents Allen

and Carolyn Fry on what would have been there 75th wedding anniversary.

We welcome today's guest preacher, Meg Fielding!

I was an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockville Centre, NY for over 30 years. In 1994 I participated in a lay education program called Diakonia and in 1998 I was set apart as a SAM (Synodical Authorized Minister) where I served for 25 years. In 2004 I took additional classes in preaching and was part of the Synod Pulpit Supply from 2004 to 2016. During that time, I preached 5 to 6 times a year. My husband, Sean, and I moved to North Carolina in 2016, and we joined St. Mark's. I entered the Advanced Lay Ministry Program of the North Carolina Synod in 2023 and was Commissioned as a Lay Preacher at the Synod Assembly in 2024. I have a deep and abiding love for Jesus and I look forward to sharing his Word wherever the Spirit leads me.

Guest Speaker: Today we welcome Jason Blanton, North Carolina representative for Bread for the World. Mr. Blanton will speak at the Forum Hour today as well as at the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

Pastor Tim is away on vacation until 9/2. In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact St. Mark's Council President, Chris Stevenson, 704-519-5283, or the church office 704-375-9185. Thank you.

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.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

Habitat For Humanity: St. Mark's Lutheran will be participating in the Fall 2025 Build with our Charlotte Church Partners team! We will be serving as site hosts on 9/20. Financial donations are needed and you may also volunteer to help with construction or help us host on 9/20. Contact Susan League for more information. 704-533-2451. Thanks in advance for your support of this important effort!

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".

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" ELW 858 is one of the most exuberant and beloved hymns of praise and thanksgiving that we have in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The *Julian Dictionary of Hymnology* calls this hymn "a magnificent hymn of praise, perhaps the finest production of its author and of the first rank in its class." Hymn writer Joachim Neander (1650-1680) included the hymn in his collection of hymns and psalm settings, published in 1680. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) did the translation from German to English, and included it in her *Chorale Book for England* (1863). She is also the translator of the well-known hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" ELW 840. **"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"** is based on two psalms, Psalm 103:1-6, and Psalm 150:6, and originally had five stanzas. **LOBE DEN HERREN** is an anonymous German tune, which first appeared in a publication from 1665. Even though the first two lines have fourteen syllables each, the tune dances along nicely.

"Come, Ye Disconsolate" ELW 607 The first two stanzas of this hymn were written by Thomas Moore (1779-1852), a popular early nineteenth-century Irish Roman Catholic poet. Although Moore is the author of thirty-two sacred songs, he is best known for his ballads and other sacred poems, including "The Last Rose of Summer" and "The Minstrel Boy". Moore's original text appeared in 1816 under the title "Relief in Prayer" where he expresses the consolation we may experience as we pray from a place of despair. Thomas Hastings (1784-1872) made a few adjustments to Moore's text, as well as providing a new third stanza, published in *Spiritual Songs for Social Worship* (Boston, 1831), and wedded to the tune **CONSOLATOR** by Samuel Webbe, Sr. (1740-1816).

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

August 24, Bartholomew, Apostle

Bartholomew is mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts. The list in John does not include him, but rather Nathanael. These two are often assumed to be the same person. Except for his name on lists of the Twelve, little is known. Some traditions say Bartholomew preached in India or Armenia following the resurrection. In art, Bartholomew is pictured holding a flaying knife to indicate the manner in which he was reportedly martyred in Armenia.

August 28, Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430)

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. Born in North Africa, he was a philosophy student in Carthage, where he later became a teacher of rhetoric. Though his mother Monica was a Christian, Augustine sought truth in ancient philosophy. As an adult he came under the influence of Ambrose, bishop of Milan, who challenged him intellectually to grow in faith. Augustine was baptized by Ambrose at Easter Vigil in 387. He was ordained four years later and consecrated bishop of Hippo in 396. A defender of the Christian faith, Augustine argued against the Donatists, that the holiness of the church depended not upon the holiness of its members and clergy, but upon the holiness that comes from Christ, the head of the church. Augustine's autobiography, *Confessions*, tells of his spiritual struggles and his journey toward faith.

August 28, Moses the Black, monk, martyr (330-405)

Born in Ethiopia, Moses the Black was converted to Christian faith toward the close of the fourth century, after having been a thief and a leader of a gang of robbers. Though the story of his conversion is not certain, he eventually became a monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native Ethiopia. He became devoted to nonviolence and was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, 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, 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)

Readings for 8/31/2025

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/

Lectionary 22

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Birthdays

8/27 Matt Hurley

8/27 Karl Sawyer

8/29 Kimberly Zimmerman

8/31 Cathy Ritchie



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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