



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



AUGUST 3, 2025

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 18

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today's reading from Ecclesiastes reminds us of the vanity and emptiness of the world's riches, and Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against greed and living for wealth. Paul encourages us to set our minds on things that are above, for we have died to sin and been raised with Christ. We are to put to death those things that live within us that separate us from new life in Christ. Instead, we are to use our limited days by clothing ourselves with the new self who is the image of the creator alive in us.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Festival Prelude on ‘O God Beyond All Praising’”

Tune THAXTED by Gustav Holst

Setting for Trumpet and Organ by David Howard Pettit

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

Processional Hymn “All Creatures, Worship God Most High” ELW 835 Stanzas 1-4 & 6

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite Music: *Göttliche Kircchengänge*, Köln, 1623; Text 1997 Augsburg Fortress

1. All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6. O sisters, brother, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

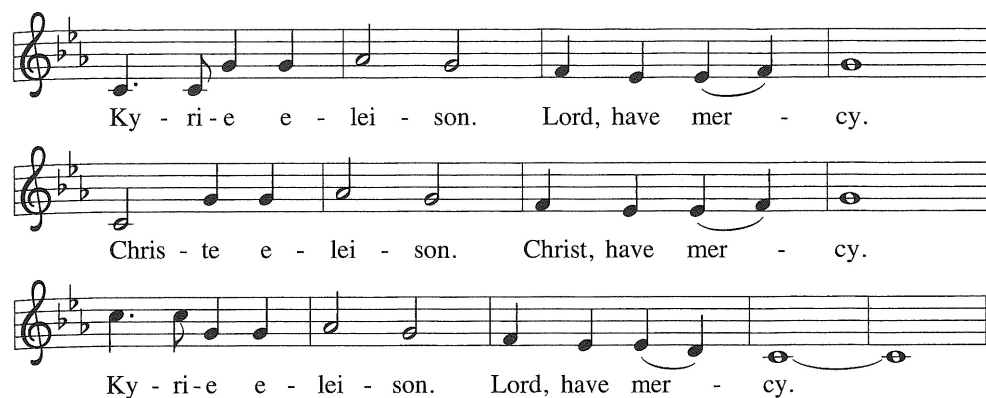
Greeting

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

“Kyrie eleison” from *All Creation Sings* from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Meg Fielding, lector

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. ¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 49:1-12

Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 49:3 (Aaron D. Miller) from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress



Hear this, | all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell | in the world, ²you of high de- | gree and low, rich and | poor together. ³My mouth shall | speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on | understanding. ⁴I will incline my ear | to a proverb and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp. R ⁵Why should I be afraid in | evil days, when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me, ⁶the wickedness of those who trust in | their own prowess, and boast of | their great riches? ⁷One can never re- | deem another, or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life; ⁸for the ransom of a life | is so great that there

would never be enough to pay it, ⁹in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave. ¹⁰For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them. ¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves. ¹²Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish. R

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-11

Meg Fielding, lector

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. ⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia” from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It contains three measures of music, each followed by the lyrics 'Al-le-lu - ia,'. The second staff is also in G major and 4/4 time. It contains two measures of music, each followed by the lyrics 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.' The second measure of the second staff is marked 'Repeat alleluia'.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Set your mind on things above”


Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.


Hymn of the Day

“Faith Begins by Letting Go” *ACS 1004 from All Creation Sings*


RATISBON



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

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

Tom Tolbert, 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.*

God of abundance, we give you thanks for all the blessings of this life: food, shelter, friendship, health,

and security. Inspire in us, your church, generosity toward people whose needs we can assuage. Forgive us when we fail to share the gifts that you have given us to manage. Help us reject greed and selfishness, and teach us to trust in your provision--so fully that we seek no comfort in earthly treasures. Open our hearts daily to make your will manifest in our lives. Guide us back when possessions dull our contentment with the treasures of your realm, and make us lax in service to others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving Creator, we praise you for the great diversity of life around us and ask that you teach and guide us to value our planet home with its oceans, lakes, and rivers; with its forests and many habitats; with its wondrous animals, birds, insects, and marine life. Teach us to sustain our world so that all may enjoy its abundance. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have placed in our hands the wealth that we call our own. Give us such wisdom that we use our possessions as instruments for blessing rather than causes of discontent. Our labor is a gift from you; may we find joy and purpose in it, and may we find ways to use it to serve and glorify you. When we experience injustice, reveal your grace so that we find joy. When disillusionment comes, move us to be content in your blessings. Lead us away from pursuing fleeting pleasures, and show us the eternal value of lives nurtured by your love and wisdom. Reveal to all world leaders and regimes the futility of waging warfare and violence to achieve impermanent political goals. Encourage us to trust in your provision and find rest. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, reveal your presence to all who suffer in any way, especially the hungry and homeless; those struggling with illness and recovery, and those living with fear and loneliness. We pray for our extended church family: 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, 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. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving Father, we give thanks for the precious relationship that we have with Christ. Help us set our hearts on the wonderful things that you have prepared for those who love you. May we share your love, gentleness, compassion, and truth with all whom we meet. Help us lay aside worldly things that displease you, and set our minds on things above. Speak through us words that honor you and express love and encouragement to others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Lord of the resurrection, we thank you for the saints who lived, setting their minds upon things that are above, believing that Christ is all in all. Grant to us such faith that sees the image of the Creator within us and within our neighbor, and bring us at the last into your kingdom where Christ lives raised in glory with you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gather our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)

MEAL

Please be seated.

OFFERING

(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)

Anthem

“Treasures in Heaven”

Joseph W. Clokey

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heav’n, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you, for ev’ry one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW 884

OLD HUNDREDTH

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer

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

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

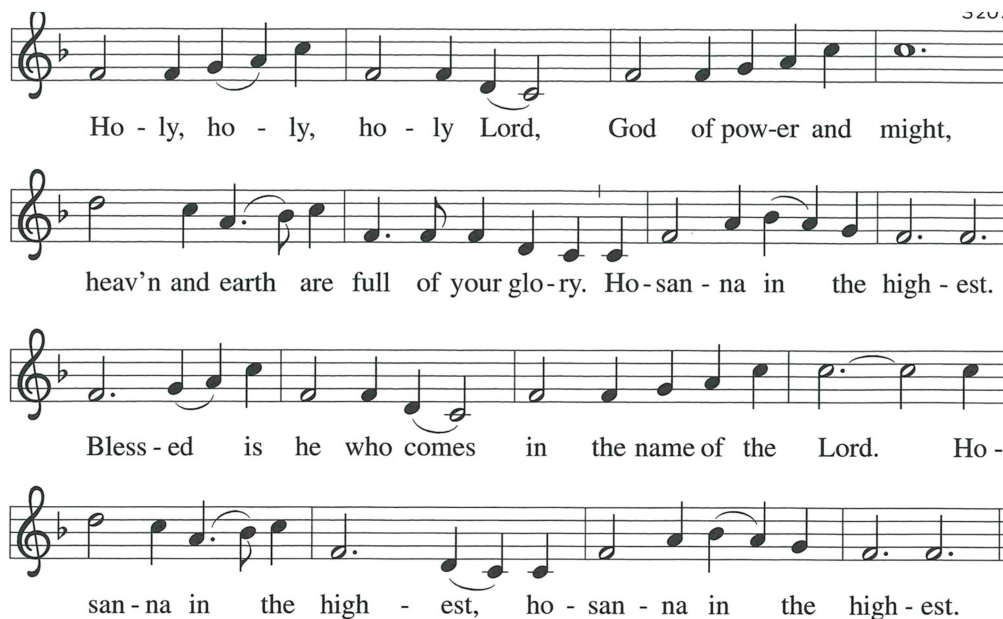
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Ten



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.

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

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.

"Aria" from *Sonata for Trumpet*, Opus 51

Flor Peeters
Gabriel Slesinger, trumpet

Communion Hymn

"Break Now the Bread of Life" ELW 515

BREAD OF LIFE

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913; alt.; Music: William F. Sherwin, 1826-1888

1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O living Word.
2. Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All-in All.
3. You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

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.

Please be seated.

SENDING

Farewell and Godspeed for Gabriel Slesinger

The pastor invites Gabriel Slesinger to come forward, and says,

Gabriel Slesinger is leaving our congregation to move to Finland to share his gift of music as a member of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra. We wish to bid him farewell and Godspeed. Gabe has been a steadfast friend of St. Mark's, playing trumpet in Sunday worship, funerals, and concerts in our church. Our worship and music life has been enriched and blessed by his playing and by his gentle and loving spirit.

The pastor continues,

Gabe, in Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his Church. When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to receive you into the fellowship of the Gospel. In this community of faith you have heard the proclamation of God's Word, which reveals God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. You have been nourished by Christ and called to witness to the Gospel. God has blessed you in this fellowship, and God has blessed us through you. We encourage you to continue to share God's gifts present in you in a new country, a new city, and a new congregation, and in the years ahead may God continue to bless your musical gifts, giving joy to others. Please remember us in prayer as fellow believers with you in God's kingdom.

Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for Gabriel Slesinger and for our life together in this congregation and community of faith. As Gabe has been a blessing to us, so now send him forth to be a blessing to others. Protect him from all evil and harm, and increase in him faith, hope, and love. May your light of grace always shine through him wherever life takes him, this we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,

Amen.

Please stand as able.

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

“We Know That Christ Is Raised” ELW 449

ENGELBERG

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 © John B. Geyer; Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!

2. We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!
3. The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah!
4. A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah!

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

“Air de Trompette”

Georg Philipp Telemann



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson ; greeters: Charles & Susan Lakeman, Neil & Charlotte Dixon; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Susan & Michael Lakeman, A.J. Pridgen; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators: Dawn Schwartz, Dianne Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir, Gabriel Slesinger, trumpet; Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Larry Dagenhart, Jr.; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team A; greeters: Ted Seman, David Thomason, Tom & Kay Sehorn; communion assistants: Cliff Edahl, Rebecca Huang, Kevin & Karen Feezor, John Simon; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Kevin Feezor



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 in honor of Andrew Puky's birthday.

Today (10:30): Farewell and Godspeed for Gabriel Slesinger. Gabe is leaving to move to Finland, joining the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra. We send him with our gratitude and God's blessing.

Card for Bishop-elect Emily Hartner: Please take a moment to sign a card for Rev. Emily Hartner. Pastor Emily was Associate Pastor at St. Mark's (2010-2017) and was elected Bishop at the 2025 NC Synod Assembly. She will take office as Bishop on August 1.

8/8/25 North Carolina Baroque Orchestra Concert at 7 pm. Admission is free.

8/9/25 St. Mark's Men's Group meeting at 9:00 am

in the Fellowship Hall, with Keniworth / Scott Avenue Clean Up to follow.

8/17/25 American Guild of Organists Recital at 4 pm featuring Les Ackerman with trumpeters Alex Willborn and Jon Kaplan.

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 Doyné, 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.

Music Notes

"Break Now the Bread of Life" ELW 515 At first glance one might assume this is a communion hymn with its mention of bread, but *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* appropriately places it in the Word of God section of the hymnal. John 6 is the inspiration for this hymn, which is where the gospel's eucharistic theology is found, but Donald P. Hustad (1918-2013), a recognized evangelical church music leader and composer in America says "this hymn is more closely associated with the opening words of the first chapter of John,

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".

in which Jesus is presented as the dynamic wisdom and mind of God--the logos, or the living Word of God." Mary Artemesia Lathbury (1841-1913) wrote this hymn for use at the Chautauqua Bible Study Hour on Lake Chautauqua in upstate New York. Her words were set to the music **BREAD OF LIFE** by William F. Sherwin (1826-1888), Chautauqua's music director.

"Faith Begins by Letting Go" ACS 1004 Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) has served as an Episcopal priest in Virginia and Connecticut, as well as past director of the Hymn Society in America. This hymn, included in *All Creation Sings* (Augsburg Fortress, 2020) was first published in Daw's *New Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs* (1996) Daw writes "this hymn affirms that faith is not a state of being, but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world." He pairs his text with the tune **RATISBON** by German organist Johann Werner (1777-1788), also wedded to Charles Wesley's hymn "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" ELW #553.


"All Creatures, Worship God Most High" ELW 835 This hymn of praise was written in 1225 by one of the most fascinating individuals in our church history, Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). He was a mystic, founder of the Franciscan monastic order, and spent a good portion of his life as an evangelist, preaching and helping the poor of Italy. It is even said he preached to the birds, and they listened! The following was written in tribute to St. Francis: "Saint Francis came to preach-with smiles he met the friendless, fed the poor, freed a trapped bird, led home a child. Although he spoke no word-his text, God's love, the town did not forget". St. Francis saw all of creation, including death, as praising God. The tune name **LASST UNS ERFREUEN** dates to 1623 Germany, where it was originally paired with an Easter hymn with the beginning words "Let Us Rejoice". *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* pairs this tune with four different hymns.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

August 8, Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers "Dominicans" (1170-1221)

Dominic was a Spanish priest who preached against the Albigesians, a heretical sect that held gnostic and dualistic beliefs. Dominic believed that a stumbling block to restoring heretics to the church was the wealth of the clergy, so he formed an itinerant religious order, the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), who lived in poverty, studied philosophy and theology, and preached against heresy. The method of this order was to use kindness and gentle argument, rather than harsh judgment, to bring unorthodox Christians back to the fold. Dominic was opposed to burning Christians at the stake. Three times Dominic was offered the office of bishop, which he refused so that he could continue his work of preaching.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons



Advocacy for a
Hunger-Free World



BREAD
FOR THE WORLD

**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 our mouths for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without a voice.

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



Proverbs 31:8a NIV

St. Mark's Prayer List

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 8/10/2025

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/

Lectionary 19

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalms 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

Birthdays

8/3 David Wyatt

8/3 Matthew Iannelli

8/4 Alex Lippert

8/4 Andrew Dixon

8/4 Marcia Newlin

8/6 Laura Wenzel



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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Lester Ackerman,

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