



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



AUGUST 31, 2025

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 22

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

Tune by Will Lamartine Thompson

Setting for organ by Dale Wood

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

Processional Hymn

“O God, Beyond All Praising” ELW 880

THAXTED

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996; Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934; 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Co.

1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
2. The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.
3. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Please be seated.

Welcome

Chris Stevenson, Council President

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.

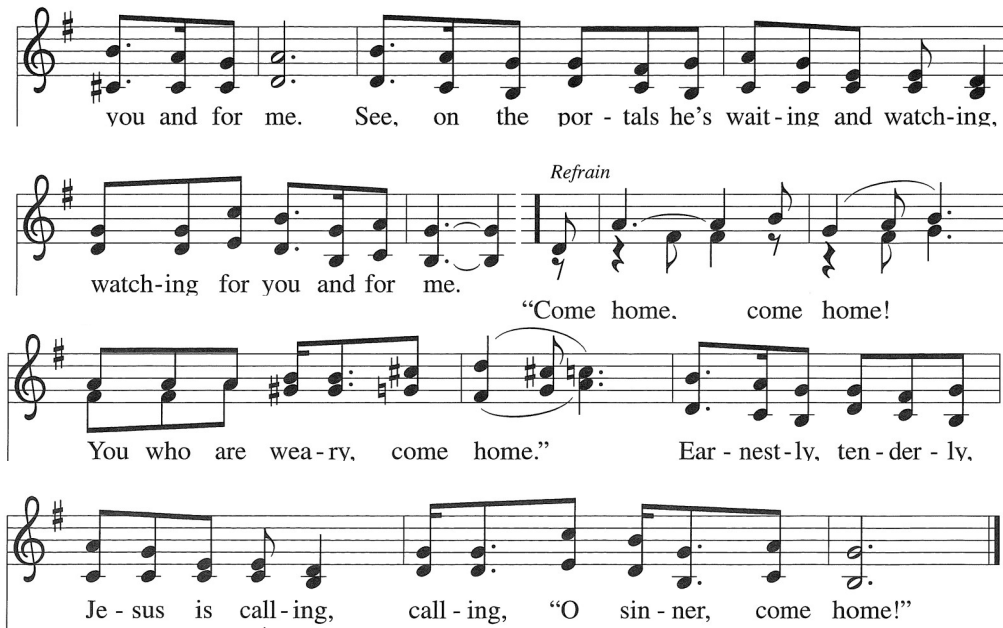
Kyrie

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" ELW 608 stanza one

THOMPSON

Text & Music: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1919





Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Temple Talk

WORD

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6-7

Kay Finlon, lector

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, ⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 112

Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 112:4 (John Paradowski) refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD and have great delight in | God's commandments! ²Their descendants will be mighty | in the land; the generation of the upright | will be blessed. R ³Wealth and riches will be | in their house, and their righteousness will | last forever. ⁴Light shines in the darkness | for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion. ⁵It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending and to manage their af- | fairs with justice. ⁶For they will nev- | er be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance. R ⁷They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD. ⁸Their heart is established and | will not shrink, until they see their desire

up- | on their enemies. ⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever; they will hold up their | head with honor. ¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away; the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. R

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Kay Finlon, lector

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia" from Holy Communion Setting Twelve

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

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

Repeat alleluia

The Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet,

invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Banquet Etiquette”

Reverend Jim Pyatt

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Come Now, You Blessed” ACS 1059

MATTHEW 25

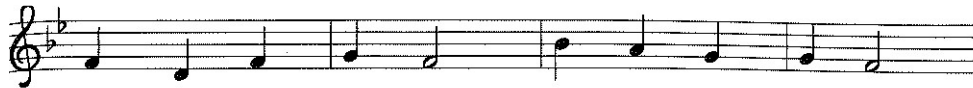
Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Emily R. Brink, b. 1940 © 1994 Faith Alive Christian Resources



1 “Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,”
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
3 “When you gave bread to earth’s hun - gry chil - dren,
4 Christ, when we meet you out on life’s road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
when you gave wel - come to war’s ref - u - gees.
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



“When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
When you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love.”
What have we done that you call us your own?
you cared for me in the small - est of these.”
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

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

Lisa Barnette, 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, for the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of Hope, show us your presence and assure us that your powerful spirit will always help us to ride out the many storms of anxieties, doubt, and uncertainty that we face daily. When we have concerns about our leaders and their decisions whether they are local, national, or global, help us to focus on prayers for love and positive actions and thoughts of peace for the future. We can be confident that prayer is effective for all humanity no matter how small or large a part we can play to make this world a more stable and equitable place to live for every living creature or ecosystem for which we are entrusted. This is our hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Trinity, one God, for the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of Comfort and Grace, hold up to your light our caring thoughts and prayers for all that need soothing comfort in their brokenness, the sadness of loss, and navigating illnesses. We aim to console those who are lonely, depressed, and in transition near the end of life. Bless all caregivers that are Christ's hands at homes and in all care facilities. Grant healing grace and strength to our church family named here, as well as friends and family members that we name in our hearts. 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.

God of love, for the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you call on us to seek opportunities to care for the poor and needy and to show hospitality with our actions in making strangers feel seen and lifted up because they have always mattered in your

eyes. We may never know if there are angels among us until our encounters become personal. We pray to you knowing that each person is already in your loving care and for us to notice them in the hidden places and out in the open on the streets struggling with the hardships that they experience every day. Empower us to have compassion for the less fortunate and to do what is within our abilities to affect change for the individuals and in the leaders in our community that continue to work on the issues of persons that are unhoused. 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

"Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken / This Is Christ's Body"

Marty Haugen & Anne Krentz Organ

Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore. Jesus, Bread of life from heaven, was their food forevermore. By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured, Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord. Loaves were broken, words were spoken, in a quiet room one night. In the bread and wine you have them, Christ, you came as Light from Light. Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here. Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!"

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.

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

5208

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.

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You" BWV 647

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

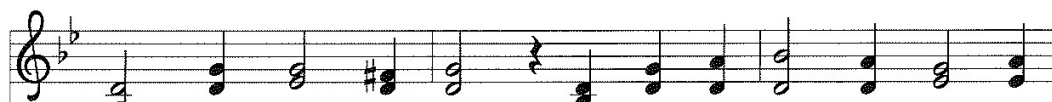
“If You But Trust in God to Guide You” ELW 769

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT


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




1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

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

“Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German



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Worship Leaders: Reverend James L. Pyatt; prayer assistant: Lisa Barnette; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; 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, Karen Feezor; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir, Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team B; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Andrea Long, John Simon; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Janice Miller, 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

The church office will be closed tomorrow, 9/1, in honor of Labor Day.

We welcome today's guest pastor! St. Mark's thanks Reverend James L. Pyatt for leading worship and preaching today. A graduate of Duke University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Duke Divinity School, he is a third generation United Methodist pastor. Jim is now semi-retired United Methodist pastor, serving part-time as the Archivist for the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC. Since his retirement in June 2023 Jim has served as a pulpit substitute in

both UMC and ELCA congregations. He and his wife Janet have two adult children, Susanna and Isaac.

Thank you, Pastor Pyatt!

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.

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. Thanks in advance for your support of this important effort!

Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims Thank you to all for your donations. If you would like to help, please hover your phone camera over the QR code to connect to the NC Synod's website.



Thinking of joining St. Mark's? Please see Pastor Tim to set up a time to talk. All people are welcome at St. Mark's!

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. You are invited to join the Faith Forum for lively discussion. The class meets at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

Online worship is streamed live every Sunday at 10:30 am on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutherancharlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Family Ministry

Nursery: A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

Confirmation Class meets every Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship

Please prayerfully consider your 2025 pledge to Christ's mission at St. Mark's. Your pledge is important to St. Mark's mission and may also be offered at any time. Brochures are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



2025 Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

Social Ministry

SPECIAL SUMMER FOOD DRIVE FOR NOURISH UP 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

"O God Beyond All Praising" ELW 880 is a newcomer to our current *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Written by Michael Perry (1942-1996) it was first published in 1982 in a collection *Hymns for Today's Church*. Paul Westermeyer writes: "It is an expansive hymn of praise, as one might expect for an expansive tune such as this. It moves from God's mercies generally, to what God has done in Christ specifically, to our response in Christ." The tune for this hymn **THAXTED**, comes from Gustav Holst's orchestral suite entitled *The Planets*, where it is the theme for "Jupiter." The name **THAXTED** is the town where Holst lived in Essex, England for a good part of his life. The tune was adopted in England for the text "I vow to thee, my country." This tune is also paired with the hymn #710 "Let Streams of Living Justice."

"In the Singing" ELW 466 A native of New Zealand, Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931) wrote this hymn in 1994 with the original title "Invocation" and suggests its nature. It calls on Jesus, "the wine of grace" and "the bread of peace," in light of Christ's presence at the table as the people sing, yet are silent and expectant with question, answer, blessing, acceptance, heart's cry, and healing. Murray is best known as a hymn writer and her texts have appeared in more than a hundred collections around the world. This hymn was published in her collection *Every Day in Your Spirit* (1996). The tune **BREAD OF PEACE** was written for this hymn by Dr. Carlton Young (b. 1926) a Methodist composer and hymn writer. He writes of his hymn tune "I've tried to keep it uncomplicated with the notion that in time those coming to the distribution might sing it from memory."

"Come Now, You Blessed" ACS 1059 American theologian, poet and hymnologist Ruth Duck (1947-2024) wrote this hymn in 1979 for *One Great Hour of Sharing*, an interdenominational mission program to support disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. This hymn is based on the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46). *All Creation Sings* (2020) pairs Duck's text with a new tune **MATTHEW 25** by Emily R. Brink (b.1940), an American church musician, educator and hymnal editor. Brink composed this tune in 1992 while editing a children's hymnal, *Songs for Life* (1994).

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

September 2, Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church (1783-1872)

Grundtvig was one of two principal Danish theologians of the nineteenth century; the other was Søren Kierkegaard. Grundtvig's ministry as a parish pastor had a difficult start. He was officially censured after his first sermon, though he did receive approval a year later to be ordained. In 1826 he was forced to resign after he attacked the notion that Christianity was merely a philosophical idea rather than God's revelation made known to us in Christ and through word and sacrament. This belief would be a hallmark of Grundtvig's writing. He spent the last thirty-three years of his life as pastor of the Vartov hospital church in Copenhagen. From his university days he was convinced that poetry spoke to the human spirit better than prose. In 1861 Grundtvig received the title of Bishop in the Church of Denmark, but without a see. He continued to write and publish until his death. He wrote more than a thousand hymns, including "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage" (ELW 509).

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.

Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger. Let's speak up on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 7!



"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice."
— Martin Luther King Jr.
Proverbs 31:8a NLV

Policy change can do much more than charity can.



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 9/7/2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 23

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Birthdays

8/31 Cathy Ritchie
9/1 Harold Finlon
9/2 Sybille Brown
9/4 Melissa Parrish
9/4 Laurie Feola
9/6 Sarah East
9/6 Sheri Stockton
9/6 Wayne Webber



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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