



MARK'S

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LECTIONARY 24

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is a living reality in Jesus. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God!

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Improvisation on 'Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing'"

Tune NETTLETON by John Wyeth; Setting for organ by Mark Sedio

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

Processional Hymn

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ELW 807

NETTLETON

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.; Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

1. Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

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

“Come and Fill Our Hearts” ELW 528 sing two times

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; T&M © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

The musical notation is presented in two systems. The first system is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are written in two lines: 'Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.' and 'Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.' The second system continues the melody with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and includes a bridge. The bridge has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are written in two lines: 'Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!' and 'Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!'. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Em, C, Em, A, and D.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works,

Amen.

acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia” from Holy Communion Setting Three

S 142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Jesus welcomes you”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Savior, like a Shepherd lead Us” ELW 789

BRADBURY

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847c. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1. Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.

2. We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
3. You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be:
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
4. Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

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

Charles Lakeman, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of all mercies, we come before you with heavy hearts for a world groaning in pain. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Gaza and Israel and all conflicts around the world who have endured fear and suffering for so long. We pray for a swift and just end to these wars, for the protection of the innocent, for the healing of the wounded, and for comfort for those who mourn. Grant strength and resolve to all who work for peace and justice. Guide the hearts and minds of leaders toward a path of reconciliation and move them to seek lasting peace. In the midst of this turmoil, we pray for your church, that we may not be cowed by a spirit of fear, but rather be a people of power and love. Strengthen us to be your hands and feet, to offer comfort to the grieving, aid to the displaced, and to witness to your love in a world that desperately needs it. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, it is easy to recognize your presence in the beauty and wonders of earth and sky, of flowers and fields, of oceans, mountains, deserts and prairies. Help us also to recognize your presence in our modern world, in the wonders of medicine, science and engineering, in finding and using the resources of

the earth, in art and creativity. We pray that we may be careful stewards of all your bounteous gifts to us and that we may never cease to marvel in all the wonders and mysteries of your creation, even as we seek to understand them more deeply. Grant us wisdom and humility to use these creative gifts to solve global challenges and improve the lives of all yet still maintain and preserve the beauty of the natural environment. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, you have shown us perfect love and perfect justice in Jesus Christ, and you have commanded us to love one another as he has loved us, but the promises of liberty and justice often ring hollow in our society. We see systems that oppress the marginalized, and we witness division and deep-seated fear of “the other”. We have mistaken self-interest for freedom and have forgotten the call to bear one another’s burdens. Forgive us, O God, for our failures to love and to act. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may see the pain of our neighbors and be agents of your transforming grace. Grant us the courage to speak truth to power and to stand with those who are oppressed. Help us to dismantle the barriers that separate us, so that our nation might more fully reflect your kingdom of righteousness and peace. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving or in pain, especially: Sean Fielding, Patsy Ginns, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Tom Sehorn, 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, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Everlasting Father, we praise you that Christ prepares a place for us at the table in your kingdom. We offer you thanks for the life and witness of Rachel Fulp. Welcome Rachel into the blessedness of your eternal kingdom and may she share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Strengthen and comfort the extended Fulp family with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
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 “Set Me As a Seal Upon Your Heart” Anna Laura Page

Set me as a seal upon your heart, O God, for love is as strong as death, strong as death. The waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. Set me as a seal upon your heart. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a strong spirit within me. Cast me not away, cast me not away from your presence. Restore unto me the joy of salvation. Uphold me with

your Spirit. The I'll teach your ways, and sinners will be converted to you. Set me as a seal upon your heart, O God, for love is as strong as death. The waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. Set me as a seal upon your heart.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Create in Me a Clean Heart” ELW 188

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer (including our Offering of Letters)

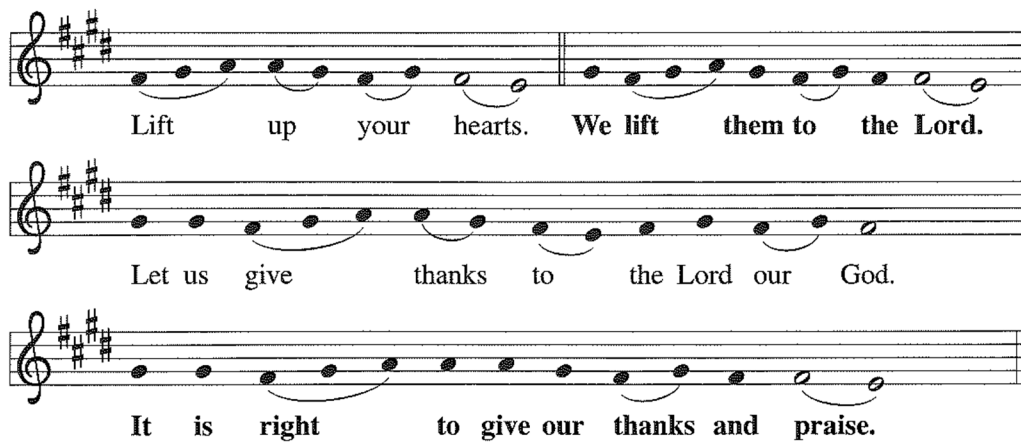
Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need. We ask that today you also bless this Offering of Letters. Use these letters to influence our elected leaders to do what they can to make ending hunger a priority, particularly for your children near and far. May these letters be a clear and bold call for justice and peace in our world. We humbly ask your continued care and blessing on all who live without enough to eat throughout the world. We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

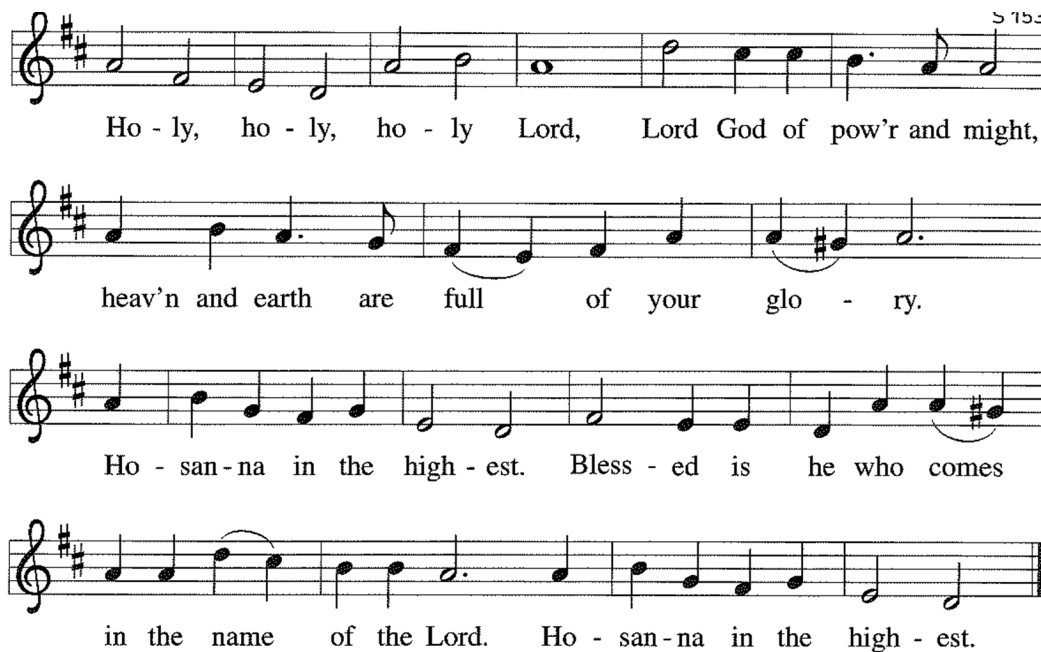


Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Four



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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

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 Four

S 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

"Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing" from *Interpretations for Organ*

Tune by Johann Lohner

Setting for organ by David Cherwien



Communion Hymn

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" ELW 608

THOMPSON

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

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Whv should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
vou and for me? Whv should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies.

Refrain
watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for vou and for me? "Come home. come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

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. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing" ELW 544

ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGAN

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt. © Oxford University press; Music: Johann Löhner, 1645-1705, adapt.

1. Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing: glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing, by this eucharist declaring yours the final victory.
2. Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing, lost and lonely, one voice hearing, ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving, in your body, firm believing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
3. Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving, we go forth alert and living in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation, seeking peace in ev'ry nation, may we faithful foll'wers be.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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

Postlude

“Toccata” from *Variations for Organ on ‘NETTLETON’*

Albert L. Travis



This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Chuck Baynard; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Millie Cansler, Dave & Eileen Dunlap; communion assistants: Janice Miller, John Simon, Chris & Palmer Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Kate Suchanek, Nick Hanewinkel, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Youth; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Andrea Long; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team B; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Virginia Molan, A.J. Pridgen, Nick Warthner; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Doug Milheim

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 loving memory of Nanette Temple by her family.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters (10:30) Today we offer the letters written by many remembering the hungry in our nation and around the world, that these letters will influence the public policy of our leaders local and national. Thank you to all who wrote letters.

The St. Marks Men's Group Meeting is rescheduled for Saturday, Sep. 20th, at 9am. The Men's Group will prepare bagged lunches for volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity build that St. Marks is day-sponsor for. We will be furnishing bottled water for the volunteers as well. We will meet at the church Saturday morning to prepare the lunches for 20-30 volunteers and deliver the water and lunches to the build site. Please contact Kevin Feezor, Mike Doyne, or Steve McCall if you have any questions.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Café Monte in Phillips Place on September 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Café Monte is an always interesting French style res-

taurant that always has excellent food to please every pallet. Café Monte is located at 6700 Fairview Road, Charlotte, NC 28210. From Sharon Road, turn east on Fairview Road and take the first right (Ashley Park Lane) into the parking area. If you are headed west on Fairview, it might be safest to turn south on Sharon Road, and then take the first left onto Ashley Park Lane (work your way counterclockwise around the big building and turn right into the parking lot just before re-entering Fairview Road. As you enter the restaurant, check out the pastry counter on the right. There usually is enough in that case to make a really tantalizing meal, even before looking at any menu. There's a full bar service. The coffees make good accompaniments while sampling pastries and perusing the salads (creative!), soups (rich!), entrees (duck confit, trout almondine, etc.), lighter fare, and desserts (QC coconut cake, beignets, etc.). Making a choice is the hard part, because there are so many delightful options! While waiting between treats, consider whether the Dean Martin or Ella Fitzgerald recording of "I Love Paris" may be your preferred version. RSVP to Tom and Judy Tolbert to assure seating. Please confirm by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. Come and try "French" in September. We'll be sampling a different Mediterranean cuisine in October. All are welcome! Give this a group a chance to enjoy your company!

Theology on Tap will be held Thursday, September 18 at 7pm at Carolina Beer Temple, 215 N. Ames St. Suite 1000, Mathews. Food truck that night is Poppycox Nashville Hot Chicken! All are welcome.

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, September 25, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. This month's study selection is *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larsen. This is an historical narrative focusing on the five months between Abraham Lincoln's election in November 1860 and the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861, which marked the start of the Civil War. The book explores the escalating tensions surrounding slavery and states' rights that led the nation to the brink of conflict. It delves into the political landscape, the actions of key figures like Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and secessionists, and examines the events that unfolded in Charleston, South Carolina, particularly around Fort Sumter. Larsen writes non-fiction in a style that reads like a novel. Please join us for a discussion of our region's history as depicted in this masterful writer's book. For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.

Heads Up! Annual Book and Puzzle Swap Reformation Sunday Oct. 26 Gather the books and puzzles you

want to share. Bring as many as you want beginning 9/21. Take as many as you like on Oct. 26.

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



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

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

Online worship is streamed live every Sunday at 10:30 am on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutheranchlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

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

Family Ministry

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

Confirmation Class meets every Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship

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

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



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

Social Ministry

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!

PAT'S PLACE Please take a moment to notice the easel holding the poster and information regarding Pat's Place. This child advocacy agency coordinates the investigation, treatment and prosecution of guilty parties of the most severe cases of child abuse. After these young people have been brought to the agency by a parent, police officer or DDS, they are interviewed, medically treated if necessary and statements taken privately by trained professionals. The agency then proceeds, and the child is free to leave, but not before choosing a gift to take with them. That's where we can help. Suggestions for these gifts are listed on the poster in the Gathering Place attached to the easel. Please help replace a child's arrival tears with a parting smile!

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

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" ELW 789 gives us images for both Psalm 23 and the parable of the good shepherd in John 10. The hymn was used as a children's song in the mid-1800's and first appeared in the collection *Hymns for the Young* (London, 1836) compiled by Dorothy Thrupp (1779-1847), but we don't know for certain she is the author, as she wrote anonymously or under pseudonyms. William Bradbury (1816-1868) American composer, conductor and the founder of his own music publishing company as well as the Bradbury Piano Company, wrote over eight hundred tunes including **BRADBURY** for this hymn. It was published in his Sunday school book entitled *Oriola* (1859). Three additional tunes by Bradbury are included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including "Just As I Am, without One Plea" ELW 592. "Jesus Loves Me!" ELW 595, and "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 596.

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ELW 807 This hymn was written by Robert Robinson (1735-1790) when he was only twenty-three years of age. Born in Norfolk, England, he was sent to London at the age of fourteen to learn the barbering trade. It was there he heard the great Methodist preacher and evangelist George Whitefield. Robinson said he and his friends went to hear Whitefield for the purpose of "scoffing at the poor deluded Methodists." It was from this experience he decided to enter the ministry, first as a Methodist, then as a Baptist. Austin Lovelace writes of Robinson: in his *Hymn Notes* (Chicago, 1987) "Like the more famous John Newton's hymn 'Amazing Grace', Robinson's hymn is one of providence and grace. Like Jacob, who raised an Ebenezer (a stone altar which signified that God had brought him thus far), he confesses how great a debtor he is to the grace of God, as are we all". The American tune **NETTLETON** had its first publication in *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music* (1813, Harrisburg, PA). The tune is named for Rev. Asahel Nettleton, a noted American evangelist of the early eighteenth century.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

September 14, Holy Cross Day

Helena (died c.330), the mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to Israel to look for Christian holy sites. She found what she believed were the sites of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, sites that modern archeologists believe may be correct. Constantine built two churches on these sites. The celebration of Holy Cross Day originated with the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection in 335. Today this festival allows the church to celebrate the cross and its meaning during a time other than Lent.

September 16, Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr (c.210-258)

Cyprian worked for the unity of the church and cared for his flock in Northern Africa during a time of great persecution. During Cyprian's time as bishop, many people had denied their faith under severe persecution. In contrast to some who held the belief that the church should not receive these people back, Cyprian believed they should be welcomed into full communion after a period of penance. He insisted on the need for compassion in order to preserve the unity of the church. His essay *On the Unity of the Catholic Church* stressed the role of bishops in guaranteeing the visible, concrete unity of the church. Cyprian was also concerned for the physical well-being of the people under his care. He organized a program of medical care for the sick during a severe epidemic in Carthage.

September 17, Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen (1098-1179)

Hildegard lived virtually her entire life in convents, yet was widely influential within the church. After an uneventful time as a nun, she was chosen abbess of her community. She reformed her community as well as other convents. Around the same time, she began having visions and compiled them, as instructed, in a book she called *Scivias*. *Scivias* is a contraction of *Sci vias Domini* (*Know the Ways of the Lord*). Hildegard's importance went beyond mysticism. She also advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. ELW 399 "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life" is based upon her writings.

September 18, Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society (1905-1961)

Dag Hammarskjöld was a Swedish diplomat and humanitarian who served as Secretary General of the United Nations. He was killed in a plane crash on this day in 1961 in what is now Zambia while he was on his way to negotiate a cease fire between the United Nations and the Katanga forces. For years Hammarskjöld had kept a private journal, and it was not until that journal was published as *Markings* that the depth of his Christian faith was known. The book revealed that his life was a combination of diplomatic service and personal spirituality, and of contemplation on the meaning of Christ in his life and action in the world.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Sean Fielding, Patsy Ginns, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, 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 9/21/2025 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 25

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Birthdays

9/15 Kristen Eason
9/16 Kay Sehorn
9/16 Roxi Tolbert
9/17 Derek Dittner
9/17 Tyler Andujar, Jr.
9/18 Benny Cox
9/19 Dianne Thomas
9/21 Jay Harbinson



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

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,
Director of Music Ministry, Organist
les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgyman, Parish Administrator
admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator
finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org