



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



OCTOBER 12, 2025

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/LECTIONARY 28

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In today's readings, Naaman, an Aramean military commander and a Samaritan man both offered thanks at being healed. Paul points us to God in Christ Jesus who remains faithful to us in all things. In the waters of baptism you have been cleansed, forgiven, and made new so that you might live a life praising God in all things. We are sent from this holy place into the world to share the Good news of God's faithfulness to all people.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Improvisation on 'Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven'"

Tune by John Goss

Organ setting by Robert Buckley Farlee

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

Processional Hymn

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" ELW 864

PRAISE, MY SOUL

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005; Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!
2. God be praised for grace and favor to our forebears in distress.
God be praised, the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!
3. Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
but, as mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the great Eternal One!
4. Angels sing in adoration, in God's presence, face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

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

“O Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” from *All Creation Sings*

Holy Communion Setting Eleven

Jack Richardson, cantor

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the cantor, with lyrics: "O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy." The second staff is for the congregation, marked "All", with the same lyrics. The third staff is for the leader or all, marked "Leader or All" and "All", with lyrics: "Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord." The melody is simple and hymn-like, using eighth and quarter notes.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Temple Talk

“Stewardship 2026”

Chris Timmons, Theatre Charlotte

WORD

First Reading

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Meg Fielding, lector

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. ³She said to her mistress, “If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease.” ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.” ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. ¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

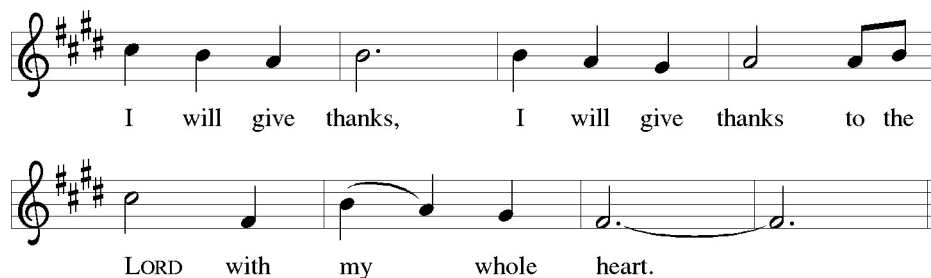
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 111

Taylor McNamara, Nick Matherly, cantors

Psalm 111:1 (Dorothy Christopherson) Refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
²*Great are your | works, O LORD, pondered by all who de- | light in them. R* ³*Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,*
and your righteousness en- | dures forever. ⁴*You cause your wonders to | be remembered; you are gracious and full | of*
compassion. ⁵*You give food to | those who fear you, remembering forev- | er your covenant.* ⁶*You have shown your people the*
power | of your works in giving them the lands | of the nations. R ⁷*The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;*
all of your pre- | cepts are sure. ⁸*They stand fast forev- | er and ever, because they are done in | truth and equity.* ⁹*You sent*
redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever; holy and awesome | is your name. ¹⁰*The fear of the*
LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures forever. R

Second Reading

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Meg Fielding, lector

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; ¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—he cannot deny himself. ¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

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 17:11-19

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? ¹⁸Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Thankfulness in all things”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“God of the Sparrow” ELW 740

ROEDER

Text : Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 © 1983 Concordia Publishing House; Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929; © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -

stars
blast
grave
gal

How does the crea - ture say Awe
How does the crea - ture cry Woe
How does the crea - ture say Grace
How does the crea - ture say Care

How does the crea - ture say Praise
How does the crea - ture cry Save
How does the crea - ture say Thanks
How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

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

Larry Dagenhart, Jr., prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Lord, thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed on us, your church. As we go about our daily lives, help us to see the world through the eyes of Jesus. Guide us in loving one another as you have loved us. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Creator God, we praise and thank you for the life-giving gift of water. Grant continued rain upon the earth's parched places and give clean water to all people in places of war, famine, and disaster; and grant to all people the wisdom to see our shared humanity in our need of the gift of water so that all life on earth might flourish. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for peace in our world. Grant wisdom and courage to leaders of nations, international agencies, and organizations to work for the cessation of war everywhere. Remind us that you are the one true God who loves us and are the one in whom we must place our trust and faith. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we praise you for the gift of healing. Heal and bless all who cry out to you in pain and suffering and grant life-giving faith to the dying. In your mercy, bless and heal our extended church family: John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, 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.

Gracious God, be with St. Mark's congregation during these important times. As we look forward to welcoming Pastor Ali Rode to our leadership team, grant us energy and creativity in activities that will grow our church. During this season of stewardship, grant us discernment as each of us examines how we can contribute our time, talent, and treasure to support our church's future. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, we praise you for the gift of faith, always turning our distress into thanksgiving. Over our lifetimes, help us to turn to you for consolation, healing, and growth; and may we always praise you with thankful hearts that heal us with a faith that leads to eternal life with you. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

“Praise the Lord” from *Judas Maccabeus*

George Frideric Handel

*Praise the Lord. Let songs of joy break forth. Sing alleluia. Praise His name forevermore.
Shout, sing and dance; come dance and celebrate. Rejoice; let all within us praise His name. Rejoice.*

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Baptized and Set Free” ELW 453 stanzas 1 & 2

BAPTIZED AND SET FREE

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956; Music: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, T&M: 1999 Augsburg Fortress

1. We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.
2. We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.

Offering Prayer

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, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

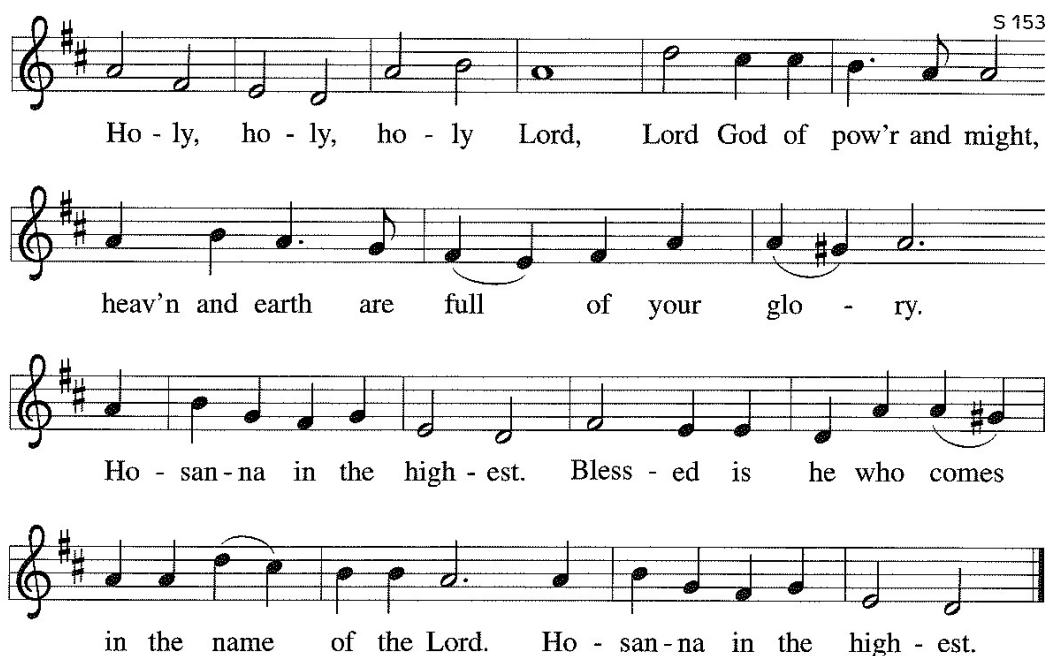
S 152

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Four



S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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.

"Prelude on 'God of the Sparrow'"

Tune ROEDER by Carl F. Schalk
Setting for organ by Valerie Shields

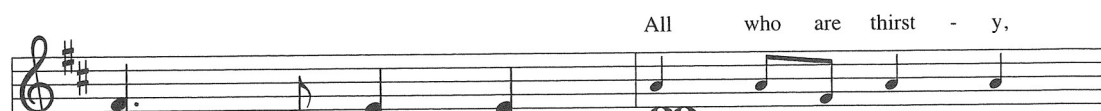
Communion Hymn

"All Who Are Thirsty" ACS 981 sing two times

ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY

Madeline Phillips, cantor

Text & Music: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979; T&M © 2014 Hope Publishing Company



“Now Thank We All Our God” from *Three Thanksgiving Chorale Preludes*

Setting for organ by Brian Joyce

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.

Please stand as able.

Recessional Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God” ELW 840

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878; Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers’ arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

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

“Now Thank We All Our God” from *Cantata 79*

Johann Sebastian Bach



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Larry Dagenhart, Jr.; crucifer/ acolyte: Needed; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Jenny Dagenhart, Sally McCauley; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Janice Miller, Chris Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Janice Miller, Doug Milhem; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Taylor McNamara, Nick Matherly, Madeline Phillips, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Tom Puky; crucifer: Andrew Puky; acolyte: Ella Puky; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team C; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Cliff Edahl, Kevin Feezor, Jay Jacob, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Diane Thomas

Parish News

From the pastor -

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

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

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

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Altar Flowers Today are given in honor and memory of all those affected by breast cancer.

10/6 Theology on Tap 7pm at Birdsong Brewery, 1016 David St., Charlotte. All are welcome

10/19 Annual Congregation Meeting following the 10:30 service to vote on new council members. No 8:30 service.

10/21 Ethnic Restaurant 6 PM A Near Eastern dinner awaits at **La Shish Kabob**. Izaat Freitekh's Lebanese grandmother taught him her recipes. Izaat has been cooking in Charlotte since coming from Israel over 35 years ago. Now, he and his daughters are poised to thrill our tastebuds. The restaurant is at **3117 North Sharon Amity Road (28205)** facing North Sharon Amity Road, near the intersection of North Sharon Amity Road and Albemarle Road. **Hint:** go hungry and team up with someone and order a variety of things, so that you can sample more of the delights on this menu. The lamb dishes are excellent. Lentil soup is an excellent starter. Falafel comes from the kitchen hot and delicious. Shawarma, gyros, baked Cornish game, and kibbeh are immediately accessible to cautious

tastes. The yellow rice is a treat by itself, and especially good when topped with meats and vegetables. Salads are crisp and flavorful. Desserts like kunafa and baklava are given Lebanese rather than Greek interpretations. It's hard to imagine not enjoying humus and baba ghanouj. RSVP to Tom and Judy Tolbert by midnight on the Monday before the dinner. All are welcome! Our focus is food and fellowship. This is a come-as-you-are, casual setting.

10/23 St. Mark's Book Group will meet at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our selection this month is "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood. Characters are Violet Powell, a 22-year-old just released from prison after serving 22 months for a drunk-driving crash that killed a local kindergarten teacher; Harriet Larson, who is facing the unsettling prospect of an empty nest; and Frank Daigle, who is the widower of the woman Violet killed. When the three encounter each other one morning in a bookstore in Portland, their lives begin to intersect in transformative ways. How to Read a Book is an unsparingly honest and profoundly hopeful story about letting go of guilt, seizing second chances, and the power of books to change our lives. With the heart, wit, grace, and depth of understanding that have characterized her work, Monica Wood illuminates the decisions that define a life and the kindnesses that make life worth living.

10/26 Reformation Sunday, 2 Services: 8:30 Contemporary; 10:30 Festive service of organ, brass, timpani and choir. Come celebrate the joyful message of the gospel of justification by grace through faith.

10/26 Annual Book and Puzzle Swap Reformation Sunday Gather the books and puzzles you want to share. Bring as many as you want. Take as many as you like on Oct. 26. Remaining books will be donated to Julia's Café and Books, Habitat for Humanity's Restore.

11/2 All Saints Sunday with Rededication of the Columbarium Prayer Garden and Potluck Luncheon. Congregational Life will supply the meat; please bring side dishes/desserts.

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

The 2026 Stewardship Appeal brochure was mailed last week. Please be prepared to offer your completed pledge form on Reformation Sunday, October 26, when all pledges will be offered together. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. 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

PAT'S PLACE Next Sunday, October 19, is the last day we will be collecting donations for **Pat's Place**. After the church service that Sunday, we will be bagging your donations for Linda Carter to deliver to **Pat's Place** during the week. We thank you for your generosity and compassion for these unfortunate children experiencing cruel and severe abuse.

NOURISH UP (formerly Loaves & Fishes) is facing **empty shelves**. This is due to the increase in the cost of groceries, resulting in less donated food. Nourish Up is also unable to replenish this shortage because of a sharp cut in federal funding. They are in need of financial assistance in order to purchase fresh produce, dairy products and bread to accompany the donated non-perishables. If you wish to donate financially, checks can be sent to St. Mark's with "Nourish Up" on the memo line. They will be sent as soon as possible. Our "summer food drive" targeting school children may be officially over, but the need of Hungry families unfortunately continues. Our baker's rack will always be waiting for your generous donations of "unbreakable nonperishable" food items.

Thank you for your continuous support of this outreach to our community's less fortunate.

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 pm; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 pm; and Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 pm; in Room 106: Thursday nights at 6:30 pm & Saturday morning 10:30 am "SLAA".

Music Notes

"Now Thank We All Our God" ELW 840 This famous German hymn is from the pen of Martin Rinkhart (1586-1649) a Lutheran pastor, poet and musician. He wrote this hymn in 1630 during the Thirty Years' War, and intended it as a table grace "Tisch-Gebetein" ("Little Prayer at Table/Meals"). The first two stanzas are inspired by Ecclesiasticus (Wisdom of Sirach) 50:22-24 "And now bless the God of all, who everywhere works great wonders, who fosters growth from our birth." The third stanza is a majestic outburst of worship and praise to the Triune God. Johann Cruger (1598-1662) composed the tune **NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT** and has been wedded to this hymn since its first publication in 1647.

"God of the Sparrow" ELW 740 Lutheran pastor, theologian and poet Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008) wrote this hymn in 1983 in response to a request from Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, Missouri. Vajda was born in Ohio, where his father was a Lutheran pastor. He is of Slovakian heritage, where his grandparents had emigrated in the 1880's. Vajda writes of this hymn: "The law of god demands perfect love of every creature; the love of God and the Gospel coax a willing response of love as an expression of gratitude. We love because he first loved us." The text is meant to incite answers from the singers of this hymn as to why and how God's creatures (and children) are to serve him. Carl Schalk's (1929-2021) tune **ROEDER** (named after his father-in-law, the Rev. Paul Roeder) was composed for this text. Schalk writes of this hymn: Stanza 1 addresses God in nature's more beneficent aspects; stanza 2 addresses God in nature's more ominous dimensions; stanza 3 address God in the heart of the Gospel (rainbow, cross, empty grave, grace); stanzas 4 and 5 address God in the social and horizontal dimensions of the Gospel (hungry, sick, prodigal, neighbor); and the final stanza sums it all up (God of the ages and near at hand).

"Baptized and Set Free" ELW 453 was written for Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Chelan, Washington. The theme for the summer of 1996 conference center was "Baptized and Set Free", and hymn writer Cathy Skogen-Soldner (b. 1956) was inspired to write both the text and tune **BAPTIZED AND SET FREE** for that gathering. She says of this hymn "even though we may only use a few handfuls of water when we baptize, I included larger bodies of water (ocean, fountain, river) to invite the singing congregation to celebrate the generous heart of God. Our gracious God gifts us with mercy, love, healing, wholeness and more than we can ask for or even imagine." This hymn is a new addition to the Holy Baptism selection of hymns in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

October 15, Teresa of Ávila, teacher, renewer of the church (1515-1582)

Teresa of Ávila was a Spanish noblewoman who chose the life of a Carmelite nun after reading the letters of Jerome. Frequently sick during her early years as a nun, she found that when she was sick her prayer life flowered, but when she was well it withered. Steadily her life of prayer deepened and she grew to have a lively sense of God's presence with her. Teresa worked to reform her monastic community in Ávila, eventually facing bitter opposition. Her reforms asked nuns to maintain life in the monastic enclosure without leaving, and to identify with those who are poor. In recognition of her theological and spiritual contributions to the life of the church, Pope Paul VI gave her the title "Doctor of the Church" in 1970. Three other women have been awarded this title: Cathrine of Siena, Thérèse of Lisieux, and Hildegard von Bingen.

October 17, Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr (c.35-c.108)

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch, the city where the name "Christian" was first used. Ignatius is known to us only through the seven letters he wrote to churches on his way to being martyred in Rome. In these letters he encouraged Christians to live in unity with the bishop, sustained with love, while standing firm on sound doctrine. Ignatius regarded suffering as the way of true discipleship. Through Ignatius we are reminded that in some places today Christians still face suffering and death for their faith in Jesus Christ.

October 18, Luke, Evangelist

St. Luke is identified by tradition as the author of both Luke and Acts. Luke is careful to place the events of Jesus' life in both their social and religious contexts. Well-known parables, like the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, are found only in this gospel. Luke's gospel has also given the church some of its most beautiful songs: the Benedictus sung at morning prayer, the Magnificat sung at evening prayer, and the Nunc dimittis sung at the close of the day. These songs are powerful witnesses to the message of Jesus Christ.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons



Annual October Congregational Meeting

**10/19/25 19th Pentecost
one service only at 10:30 am
immediately followed by the
meeting.**

Thank you for your faithfulness in service together to
Christ at St. Mark's!

Reformation Sunday October 26, 2025



*On Reformation Sunday we celebrate the
joyful message of the gospel of justification by
grace through faith.*

Two services:

8:30 Contemporary service
10:30 Festive service of organ,
brass, timpani and choir.

*Don't miss the Book and Puzzle Swap
in the Gathering Place on this day!*

St. Mark's Prayer List

John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, 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.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 10/19/2025

Nineteenth Sunday after

Pentecost/ Lectionary 29

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Birthdays

10/12 Jane McCall

10/13 David Thomason

10/13 Madeleine Thompson

10/14 Matthew Williams

10/16 Robert Hazen

10/17 Phoebe Droege

10/17 Patrick Huang



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

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Lester Ackerman,

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Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

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