



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



OCTOBER 19, 2025

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/LECTIONARY 29

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today's readings remind us to pray always, struggle with God's word, and not to lose heart. Lift your eyes to the hills again this week, knowing that your help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. Petition the Lord in prayer and wrestle with God's presence in your life. God is faithful and will not fail to come to you, leaving you with a blessing. As Jacob received a new name, in baptism you have been named as a child of God so that you might live in God's name for others.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You" BWV 647 Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Processional Hymn

"Oh, Worship the King" ELW 842

HANOVER

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.; Music: William Croft, 1678-1727

1. Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
2. The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
3. Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
4. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.
5. O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

Please be seated.

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

O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All

O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All All

Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice or all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Temple Talk

“Stewardship 2026”

Alcoholics Anonymous

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 32:22-31

Kay Finlon, lector

²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 121

Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 121:2 (Dorothy Christopherson) Refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



My help comes from the LORD, the mak-er of heav-en and earth.

I lift up my eyes | to the hills; from where is my | help to come? ²My help comes | from the LORD, the maker of heav- | en and earth. ³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep. ⁴Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R ⁵the LORD watches | over you; the LORD is your shade at | your right hand; ⁶the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night. ⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life. ⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in, from this time forth for- | evermore. R

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Kay Finlon lector

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. ¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their

ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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 18:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” ⁶And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Be persistent in prayer”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

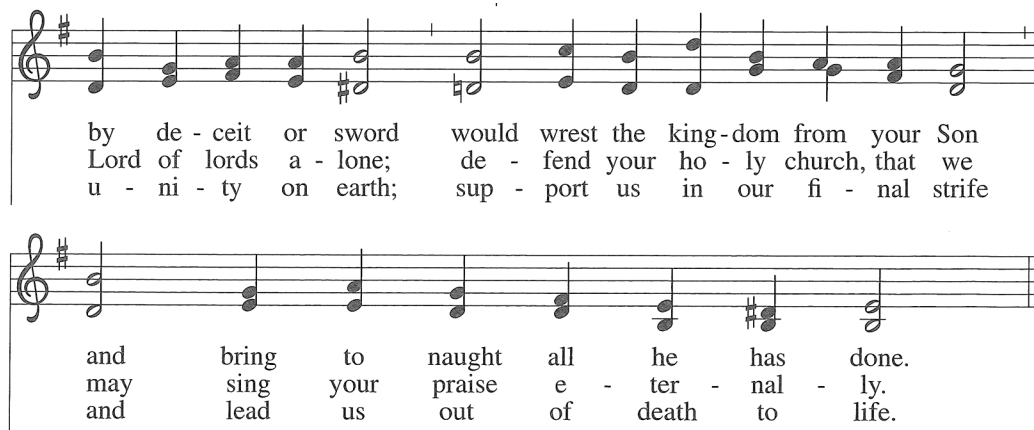
Hymn of the Day

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” ELW 517

ERHALT UNS, HERR

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: J. Klag, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
 he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
 Amen.**

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

Tom Puky, 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.

God of Jacob, who wrestled through the night and would not let go without a blessing, strengthen Your Church to persevere in prayer like the persistent widow. Teach us, O Lord, to lift our eyes to the hills, trusting our help comes from You alone. Guard Your people, that we may remain faithful to the gospel entrusted to us, as Paul urged Timothy. Make us steadfast, courageous, and compassionate as we serve in Your name. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, draw us into the beauty and majesty of your whole creation, so that as your creatures, we might integrate our faith, intellect, and entire being to use and care for the world you have given to us. May we use this harvest season to ensure that all people have a place at our tables and always know your abundance. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Righteous Judge of all nations, we bring before You the leaders of the world. As the widow pleaded for justice, may our leaders seek what is right and defend the oppressed as the means of granting justice in

the world. Bless all leaders with wisdom, integrity, and compassion. Where there is conflict, bring peace; where there is injustice, stir the hearts of those in power until happiness, love and righteousness flow like a river. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for St. Mark's during this 2026 Stewardship season; encourage us to persevere in prayer; to share the good news of Jesus with all people, to serve and advocate those in need; and to give generously to sustain the work of our church. Bless and strengthen Pastor Alexandra and Brian Rode as they prepare to join us as co-workers in your mission to all the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, our keeper and shade, we pray for all who struggle in body, mind, or spirit. For those who, like Jacob, wrestle through long nights of pain, fear, or uncertainty—grant them Your blessing. Lift up the weary, comfort the lonely, and be their constant help. May they know that You watch over them as they would have seen Your face to face and in turn will have their life preserved. We pray for your blessing upon 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, Danyne 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.

Eternal Lord, we lift our eyes to the hills knowing our help comes from you, the Lord who made heaven and earth. As you blessed Jacob, and all the saints who wrestled with you in prayer and lives of service, so too, bless us in our prayerful struggles that we might be counted among the faithful saints when you come you judge all heaven and earth. 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 "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" Tune by Georg Neumark
Setting for choir and organ by Jody W. Lindh

If thou but suffer God to guide thee, and hope in Him through all thy ways, he'll give thee strength,, whate'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days; who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the Rock that naught can move. Only be still and wait His leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content to take whate'er thy Father's pleasure, and all-discerning love hath sent; nor doubt our inmost wants are known to Him who chose us for His own. Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving; in all thy labor faithful be, and trust His Word, though undeserving, thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God never yet forsook in need the soul that trusts in Him indeed.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Jesus, Still Lead On” ELW 624 stanzas 1 & 2

SEELENBRAUTIGAM

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.; Music: Adam Drese, 1620-1701

1. Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, although the way be cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless; guide us by your hand to the promised land.
2. If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faithless fears o’ertake us, let not faith and hope forsake us; safely past the foe to our home we go.

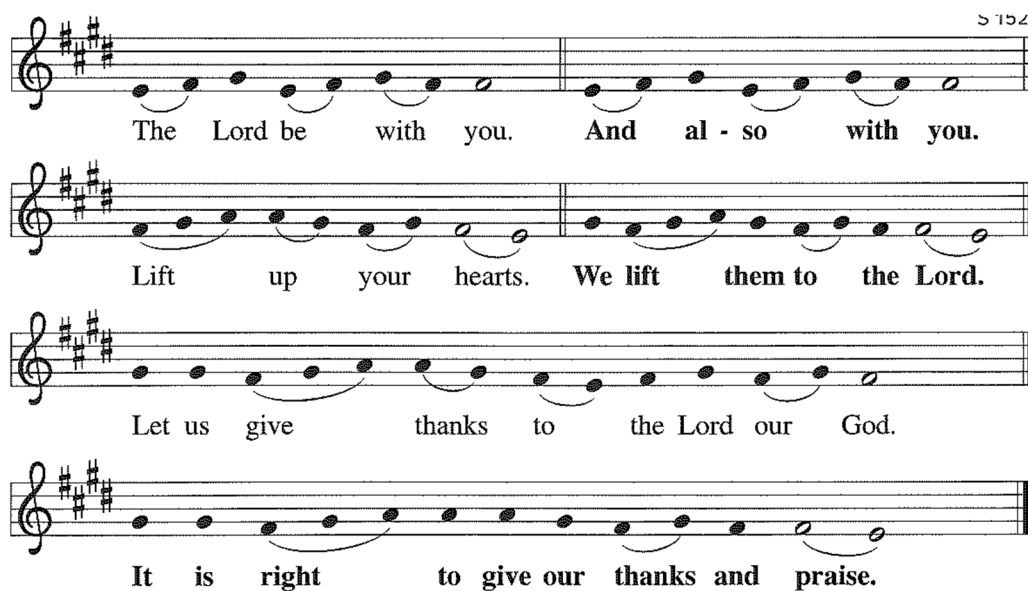
Offering Prayer

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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The second staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The third staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The fourth staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

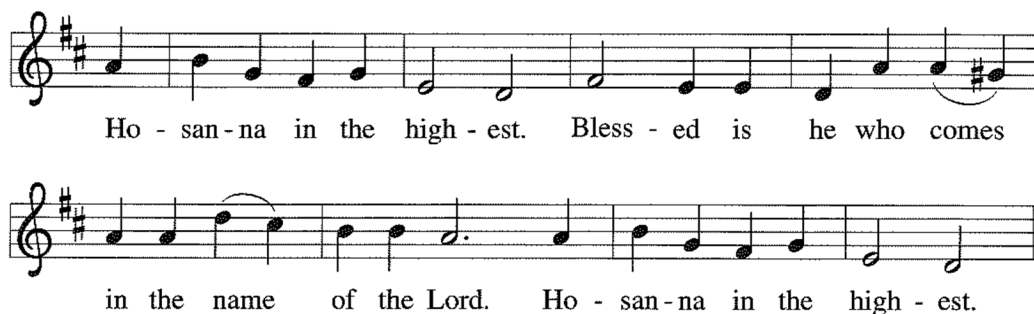
Holy Communion Setting Four



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves, each with a treble clef. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The second staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.



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.

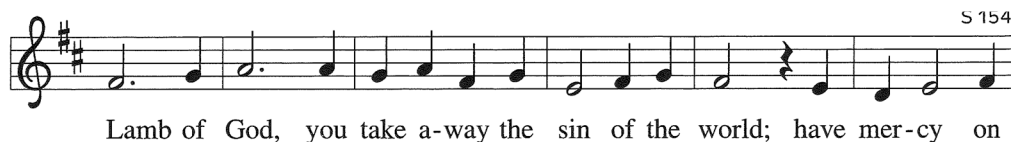
Distribution of Holy Communion

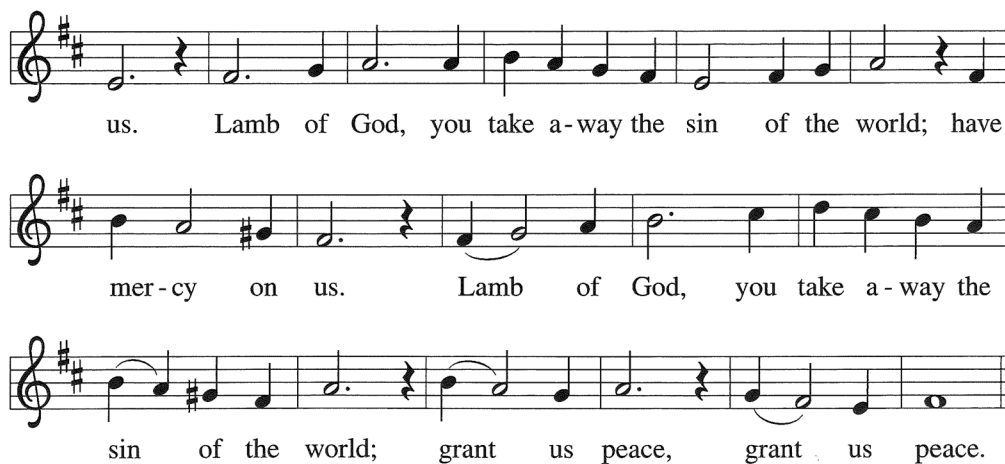
Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, 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





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 ‘Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word’”

Tune ERHALT UNS, HERR

Setting for organ by Johann Gottfried Walther

Communion Hymn

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” ELW 773

PRECIOUS LORD

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993; Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey;
T&M © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.



1 Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
3 When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draws . . near,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al-most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv-er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me 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

“Rise Up, O Saints of God” ELW 669

FESTAL SONG

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936 © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress;; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

1. Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.
2. Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.
3. Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.
4. Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.
5. Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God.

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 on ‘Oh, Worship the King’”

Tune HANOVER by William Croft
Organ Setting by Michael Burkhardt



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Tom Puky; crucifer: Andrew Puky; acolyte: Ella Puky; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Jenny Dagenhart, Sally McCauley; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick &

Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Cliff Edahl, Kevin Feezor, Jay Jacob, Nick Warther; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Diane Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Amy Woodall, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer: Riley Smith; acolyte: Kelsey Smith; lector: Charles Lakeman; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team C; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp; communion assistants: Karen & Kevin Feezor, Andrea Long, John Simon, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Doug Milheim, Charles Lakeman

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 loving memory of my parents, Priscilla and Gene Grummer by Sarah Storrs.

10/19 Annual Congregation Meeting

following the 10:30 service to vote on new council members.

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, tomtolbert@compodium.net, 803-230-7073. 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 / Pledge Sunday, 2 Services: Bring you 2026 pledge to offer. 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.

10/2 All Saints Sunday with Rededication of the Columbarium Prayer Garden and Potluck Luncheon. All are welcome! 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 Today is the last day we will be collecting donations for **Pat's Place**. After the church service, 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".

"Oh, Worship the King" ELW 842, dates from 1833, and first appeared in a publication entitled *Christian Psalmody*. Robert Grant (1779-1828) is the author of this paraphrase of Psalm 104, and his setting has been called a model hymn for worship, and one of the finest examples of early nineteenth century hymnody. American writer/musician Kenneth Osbeck includes this hymn in his book *101 Hymn Stories*, and writes: "this hymn has few equals in expressive lyrics in the exaltation of the Almighty. Each of the epithets applied to God -King, Shield, Defender, Ancient of Days, Maker, Redeemer, Friend, as well as the vivid imagery such as: His chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form, and the references to His attributes of power, might, grace, bountiful care, and love, all combine to describe the literary eloquence and spiritual warmth, and the majesty and praise-worthiness of our God." The tune **HANOVER** is attributed to William Croft (1678-1727) but we are not certain he composed it. The tune does predate the hymn, as it appears in a collection of Psalms published in 1708. Some hymnals pair a different tune to this hymn. **LYONS** is one of these, with an identical meter, and is "You Servants of God" ELW 825.

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" ELW 517 This short hymn was written by Martin Luther in 1541 for use in a prayer service. The text is a prayer asking for God's protection. This was at the time when the Turkish army had invaded Hungary and was a threat to Germany. Additional stanzas (twelve) appear in numerous publications, but probably not written by Luther. The original title appears in 1543 as "A hymn for the children to sing against the two archenemies of Christ and his Holy Church, the Pope and the Turks." Paul Westermeyer writes: "It is a trinitarian petition--to the Father to keep us steadfast in the word of God and curb the power of those who stand against it, to the Son to defend the church that we may sing Christ's praise, and to the Holy Spirit to send peace and unity on earth and lead us from death to life." The Word of God was always uppermost in the mind and heart of Luther, and we sing his prayer asking God to keep us faithful to the Word. The tune **ERHALT UNS, HERR** first appeared in the collection *Geistliche Lieder* (Wittenberg, 1543) by Johann Klug (1490-1552) and gets its German name from Luther's hymn text "Keep Us, Lord".

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You" ELW 769 Text and tune **WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT** were written in 1641 by Georg Neumark (1621-1681). He wrote this in the midst of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) and during an especially difficult time in his life as an expression of gratitude to God. Following being robbed and unsuccessfully seeking employment, he found himself getting hired as a tutor to a wealthy family: "This good fortune, which came so suddenly and, as if fallen from heaven, gladdened my heart so that on that very day I composed to the honor of my Lord the here-and -there well-known hymn 'If You But Trust in God to Guide You'; and had certain cause enough to thank the divine compassion for such unexpected grace shown to me." This hymn is based on the final two verses of Psalm 55. Published in 1657, with seven verses and this caption "Hymn of Consolation. That in God's own time God will sustain and keep each person according to the text, Cast your burden on the Lord, who will sustain you." Today we hear two settings of this hymn: the choir anthem by Dallas, Texas composer Jody Lindh, and a setting for organ by J.S. Bach for the prelude.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

October 23, James of Jerusalem, martyr (died c.62)

James became an early leader of the church in Jerusalem. He is described in the New Testament as the brother of Jesus, and Roman-Jewish historian Josephus called James the brother of Jesus, "the so-called Christ." Little is known about James, but Josephus reported that the Pharisees respected James for his piety and observance of the law. James was put to death by stoning.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

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 10/26/2025

Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

Birthdays

10/19 Janice Elder

10/19 Virginia Edahl-Molan

10/20 Eddie Goodall

10/20 Kelly Price

10/21 Erich Wartner

10/23 Harry Kendrick

10/23 Shelley Mobley

10/24 Tim Niedermeier

10/25 Alice FuHua Wenzel



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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