



# MARK'S

## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



NOVEMBER 23, 2025

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.*

### GATHERING

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

#### Prelude

"Partita on 'Crown Him with Many Crowns" Op. 66  
Chorale-Duo-Meditation

Tune DIADEMATA by George Elvey  
Setting for organ by Charles Callahan

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

#### Processional Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" ELW 634

CORONATON

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792. Sts. 1-4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5-6.; Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.
2. O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
3. Hail him, you heirs of David's line, whom David Lord did call-  
the God incarnate, man divine-and crown him Lord of all.  
The God incarnate, man divine-and crown him Lord of all.
4. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,  
go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.
5. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball  
to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.

*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,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

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.*

Faithful God,  
**You have shown us the ways of your heart,  
yet we stray from your paths.**

**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression  
and do not embrace the freedom  
of your faithful promises.**

**We ignore our neighbors.  
We exploit the earth.  
We reject your abundance,  
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.**

**Repair our relationships,  
restore what we have broken,  
renew our hearts,  
and bring us to new life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God the Faithful One loves you,  
in Christ Jesus ✠ your sins are forgiven,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

**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**

“Lord Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting One*

Jack Richardson, cantor



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



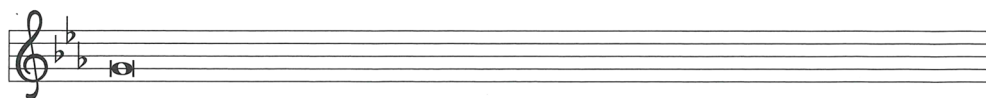
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



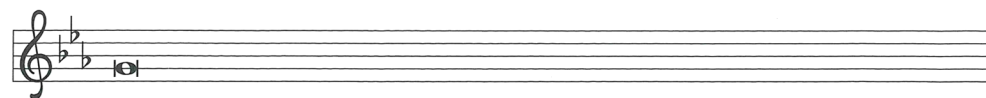
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# Hymn of Praise

## “Glory to God” from *Holy Communion Setting One*

S 99

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### First Reading

### Jeremiah 23:1-6

Kay Finlon, lector

<sup>1</sup>Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. <sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 46

Nick Matherly, Taylor McNamara, cantors

Psalm 46:10 (David Cherwien) refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



God is our ref- | uge and strength, a very present | help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea; <sup>3</sup>though its waters | rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult. <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God, the holy habitation of | the Most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken; God shall help it at the | break of day. <sup>6</sup>The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R <sup>7</sup>The LORD of | hosts is with us; the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. <sup>8</sup>Come now, regard the works | of the LORD, what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth; <sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire. <sup>10</sup>"Be still, then, and know that | I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth." <sup>11</sup>The LORD of | hosts is with us; the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

## Second Reading

### Colossians 1:11-20

Kay Finlon, lector

<sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

*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 23:33-43

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23rd chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the

King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” <sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup>Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup>He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*“New Year’s Resolutions”*

Meg Fielding, Lay Preacher

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day** “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” ACS 954 from *All Creation Sings* PICARDY

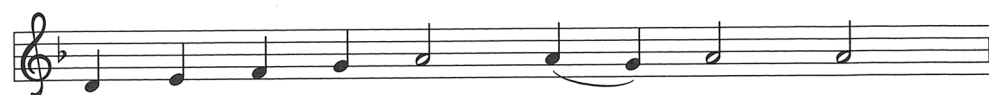
Text: & Music: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite; Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress



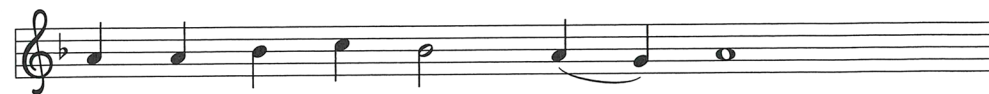
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
stripped of might up - on the cross,  
sit in pow - er at God's side.  
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

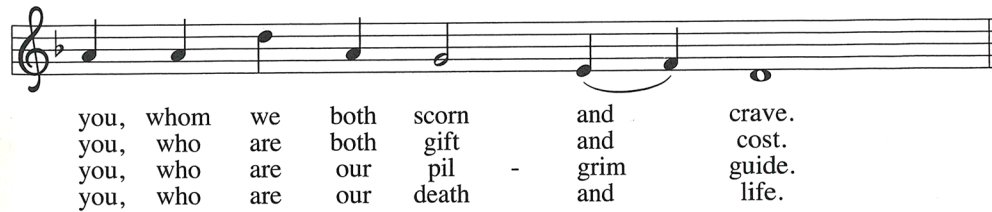


of the way you took and gave.  
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
have a love that reach - es wide.  
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;





## 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.*

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Almighty God, we confess that in times of social and political conflict, we are often scattered, listening to destructive voices rather than to the word of your gospel. Remind us, O God, of the promises spoken through your prophet Jeremiah, that you will raise up a righteous shepherd who shall execute justice and righteousness. Empower your church to be a faithful presence, a community where all are held together and reconciled by Christ. Grant us the courage to speak truth in love, to stand with the oppressed, to dismantle barriers of prejudice and mistrust, and to witness to the reconciling power of your kingdom, where all are welcome and none are scattered. Guide our leaders and all who seek to shape public life, that they may serve the common good with wisdom and humility. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the Creator, we pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of Peace, we lift up to you a world torn by war and violence, crying out against the darkness of human aggression. We pray for an immediate and lasting end to the war in Ukraine, for the protection of the innocent, and for the conversion of hearts bent on destruction. We also pray for the maintenance of the ceasefire in Gaza and for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land, where fear and bitterness have reigned too long. Break the bow and shatter the spear in every conflict zone around the world. Inspire nations to seek diplomacy over destruction, and mercy over vengeance. Equip us, your people, to be



tireless agents of your *shalom*—your peace—in our communities and across the globe. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of Healing and Hope, we pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick, especially: Sandy Rach, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Diane Thornton, Polly Needham, John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, 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, and those others we lift up before you now, silently or aloud. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God the Father, we pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious and Holy Shepherd, we praise you for calling Pastor Ali Rode, to share in the mission of this congregation. As this new chapter begins, we pray that you will bless and sustain her as she joins our ministry team. Grant her wisdom to interpret your Word, compassion to care for the sick and the lonely, and strength in the Spirit to lead us in works of justice and mercy. Help us, to welcome, support, and work alongside her, nurturing a spirit of shared ministry, mutual respect, and common purpose. Keep us faithful to the Good News, that together we may grow in the knowledge of your will and build your kingdom here in Charlotte. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of Eternal Life, we give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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**

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Malcolm Archer

*Rejoice, the Lord is King, your Lord and King adore; mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore: lift up your hearts, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice. Jesus, the Savior, reigns the God of truth and love; when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above: lift up your hearts, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say rejoice. His kingdom cannot fail;*

*he rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys to death and hell are to our Jesus given: lift up your hearts, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit, and bow to his command and fall beneath his feet: Rejoice, the Lord is King, your Lord and King adore; mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore: lift up your hearts, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*Please stand as able.*

## Offertory

*(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)*

“Soon and Very Soon” ELW 439 stanza one

VERY SOON

Text & Music: Andrae Crouch, b. 1945; © 1976 bad John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

1. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

S 152

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

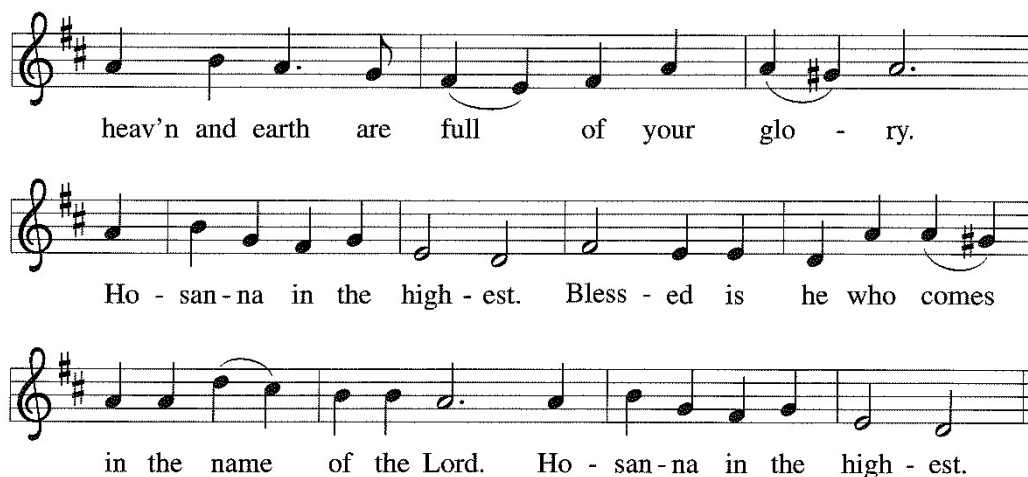
### Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

*Holy Communion Setting Four*

S 153

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



When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remembered that “in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.”

We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

### **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**

There is a place for you at the table of God.  
Come, receive the food that does not perish,  
a taste of life eternal.

*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**

“Lamb of God” from *Holy Communion Setting Four*

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.

“Meditation” from *Partita on ‘Lift High the Cross’*

Charles Callahan

## Communion Hymn

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth” ELW 538

ENVIADO

Text: & Music: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923; English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá  
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun-do fra - ter - nal.  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain  
un mun-do de do - lor por un mun-do me - jor;  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;  
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

*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. God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **SENDING BLESSING**

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,  
God the Son save you,  
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you ✠  
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn** “Crown Him with Many Crowns” ELW 855 stanzas 1, 3, 4 & 5

DIADEMATA

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.
3. Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.
4. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
5. Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

### **Postlude**

“Toccata on ‘Crown Him with Many Crowns’”

Organ setting by Jerry Westenkuehler



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**Worship Leaders:** Meg Fielding, Lay Preacher; prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Michael Thompson; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Evelyn Gerdes, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, A.J. Pridgen, Nick Wartner, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Susan League, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Taylor McNamara, Nick Matherly, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team A; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Cliff Edahl, Rebecca Huang, Karen & Kevin Feezor, John Simon; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Janice Miller, Dawn Schwartz

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## *Parish News*

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### **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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

### *Coming Up at St. Mark's*

### **Worship and Congregational Life**

### **We welcome today's guest preacher, Meg Fielding!**

I was an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockville Centre, NY for over 30 years. In 1994 I participated in a lay education program called Diakonia and in 1998 I was set apart as a SAM (Synodical Authorized Minister) where I served for 25 years. In 2004 I took additional classes in preaching and was part of the Synod Pulpit Supply from 2004 to 2016. During that time, I preached 5 to 6 times a year. My husband, Sean, and I moved to North Carolina in 2016, and we joined St. Mark's. I entered the Advanced Lay Ministry Program of the North Carolina Synod in 2023 and was Commissioned as a Lay Preacher at the Synod Assembly in 2024. I have a deep and abiding love for Jesus and I look forward to sharing his Word wherever the Spirit leads me.

**Pastor Tim is away on vacation 11/11-24.** In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact St. Mark's Council President, Chris Stevenson, 704-519-5283, or the church office 704-375-9185. Thank you.

**Advent Bags Available Today!** Please stop by the table in the Gathering Space after worship today to pick up your family's Advent Bag! Each bag contains a devotional resource for the Advent Season through Christmas and Epiphany and some homemade cookies. The Congregational Life and Education Committees hope this resource will enrich your family's holiday season!

**Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims** 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. Everyone is welcome.

**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.

### **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**

Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. **2026** 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.



### **Social Ministry**

**Nourish Up This Thanksgiving,** you can make a difference by donating much-needed food items or making a financial contribution to help nourish neighbors in need. So far this year, we have provided groceries to more than **124,500** neighbors in Mecklenburg County. With the busy holiday season still ahead, cuts to federal programs, and the government shutdown, **we need your help-** more than ever before to meet the increasing need. **We are especially in need of pantry staples such as these priority items: Frozen Turkeys, Canned Meat, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Rice, Pasta (canned or dry boxed).** Donate food

items directly to our Hunger Hub, 901 Carrier Drive, Charlotte 28216, M-F 9am-4pm, S 11/22 9am-noon. Or make a financial donation at <https://nourishup.org/thanksgiving/>

**ROOM IN THE INN** is just around the corner when we will be hosting 10 homeless men each Tuesday during January and February. We are **requesting donations of the following items** we offer our homeless guests— \* travel size men's deodorant \* individually packaged toothbrush \* travel size toothpaste, still in its box \* travel size body lotion, fragrance free \* lip balm/chapstick \* dental floss \* pocket tissue packets

BEDTIME SNACKS \* lunch size bags of chips, pretzels, goldfish \* granola bars (preferably without nuts) \* small bags of fruit snacks

ITEMS WE **DO NOT NEED** (dispensers in showers) \* soap/body wash \* shampoo \* conditioner \* mouthwash (as requested by Roof Above)

A collection basket is in the hall on the table across from the large conference room. Your help in all this will be GREATLY APPRECIATED by the Social Ministry committee and the homeless men we serve.

**NOURISH UP** (formerly Loaves & Fishes) is facing **empty shelves.** Nourish Up is also unable to replenish this shortage because of a sharp cut in federal funding. They need financial assistance to purchase fresh produce, dairy products and bread to accompany the donated non-perishables. Checks can be sent to St. Mark's with "Nourish Up" on the memo line. Our baker's rack will always be waiting for your generous donations of "unbreakable nonperishable" food items. Thank you for your continuous support.

**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; & Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 pm; "SLAA" meets in Room 106: Mondays men only at 6 pm; Thursdays at 6:30 pm & Saturday morning 10:30 am.



## Music Notes

**"Crown Him with Many Crowns" ELW 855.** This hymn was extracted from two six stanza hymns, twelve stanzas total. From Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) we have stanzas one, two, three, and five, and from Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) stanza four. Both hymn writers were inspired by the passage from Revelation 19:12 "and on his head were many crowns." Each stanza itemizes the characteristics of the risen Lord: "The Lamb upon his throne," "The Lord of love," "The Lord of life," and "The Lord of years." George Elvey (1816-1893) wrote the tune **DIADEMATA** for this hymn, with its first publication in the 1868 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune name **DIADEMATA** is derived from the Greek word for crown or diadems, a royal headband.

**"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" ACS 954** from *All Creation Sings* Susan Dunstan (1955-1993) has served as a pastor and as a duty chaplain in a maximum-security jail. Dunstan says she wrote this hymn in 1984 while commuting on a bus after a particularly bad day at the jail. It was later published in *In Search of Hope & Grace* under the title "Christus Paradox." *All Creation Sings* pairs Dunstan's text with the seventeenth century French folk tune **PICARDY**, named for that region of France.

**"The Lord Sends Us Forth" ELW 538** This hymn was written by a Cuban Pentecostal pastor named Jose Aguilar, and first heard by Pablo Sosa in 1982 at the Assembly of the Latin American Council of Churches in Lima, Peru.. Sosa writes: "the text is an updated exegesis of Isaiah's vocational call (chapter 6), undoubtedly influenced by the Latin American Liberation Theology as well as for the social and political conditions in its own country of origin, Cuba, where a profound process of social justice has been taking place since 1959." Gerhard Cartford translated the hymn from Spanish to English. Cartford writes: "though the message is simple, it is nonetheless profound: we who receive Christ's body and blood at the eucharistic table are that body and blood in the world--not angels, but we who are the baptized ones grafted into Christ the vine, feed to be what we are in a world of pain." Pedro Infante is the composer of the tune **ENVIADO** (Spanish for the adjective sent).

## *This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar*

### **November 23, Clement, Bishop of Rome (died in 99)**

Clement was the third bishop of Rome, serving at the end of the first century. He is remembered for a letter he wrote to the church at Corinth, still having difficulties in spite of Paul's two canonical letters. "Love...has no limits to its endurance; bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile or arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others. Clement's letter is also a witness to an early understanding of church government and the way each office in the church works for the good of the whole.

### **November 23, Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr (1891-1927)**

Miguel Agustín Pro grew up among oppression in Mexico, where revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the rich. He was a Jesuit priest who served during a time of intense anticlericalism, and therefore carried out much of his ministry in private settings. Miguel and his two brothers were arrested, falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a car of a government official, and executed by firing squad. Just before the guns fired, he yelled, "Viva Cristo Rey!" meaning, "Long live Christ the King."

### **November 24, Justus Falckner, (1672-1723); Jehu Jones (1786-1852); William Passavant (1821-1894), pastors in North America**

A native of Saxony, **Falckner** was the son of a Lutheran pastor, and studied theology in Halle. He served congregations in New York and New Jersey. He the first Lutheran pastor ordained in North America, and his catechism was the first Lutheran book published on this continent. **Jones** was a native of Charleston, South Carolina. Ordained by the New York Ministerium in 1832, he became the Lutheran church's first African American pastor. Upon returning to South Carolina, he was arrested under a law prohibiting free blacks from reentering the state. For nearly twenty years, Jones carried out missionary work in

Philadelphia in the face of many difficulties, where he led the formation of the first African American Lutheran congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church. **Passavant** organized social ministry in western Pennsylvania which became the seed of today's Lutheran Services in America. He also active in the founding of Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary (a predecessor of LSTC), and Passavant Hospital, now part of Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Passavant sought to serve the poor, the sick, and to provide theological education for pastors.

### November 25, Isaac Watts, hymnwriter (1674-1748)

Isaac Watts was born in England to a family of nonconformist Christians who thought the reforms of the Church of England had not gone far enough. Watts wrote about six hundred hymns, many in a two-year period beginning when he was twenty years old. Some of Watts's hymns are based on psalms, a nonconformist tradition. When criticized for writing hymns not taken from scripture, he replied that if we can pray prayers written by us, but not from scripture, then we can surely also sing hymns that reflect our faith. Ten of Watts's hymns texts are in the ELW, including "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (ELW 632).

*Adapted from Sundays and Seasons*

### St. Mark's Prayer List

Sandy Rach, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Diane Thornton, Polly Needham, John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, 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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

#### Readings for 11/30/2025

##### First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

#### Birthdays

11/24 Burkhardt Otterstadt

11/24 John Iannelli

11/25 Amy Jacob

11/26 Susan Ginns



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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))



### *Our Ministers*

#### All the people of God at St. Mark's

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**

[pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Lester Ackerman,**

**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**

[les@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:les@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**

[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator**

[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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