



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

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JANUARY 11, 2026

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Prelude on ‘Baptized in Water’”

Gaelic tune BUNESSAN; Setting for organ by A. Royce Eckhardt

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

Processional Hymn

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” ELW 310

SALZBURG

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.; Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
2. Manifest at Jordan's stream, prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
3. Manifest in making whole weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
4. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

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,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy
and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

Kyrie

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

Holy Communion Setting Twelve
Jack Richardson, cantor

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff is for the cantor and the second is for the congregation. The lyrics are: Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad. O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

glory thunders; the LORD is upon the | mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice; the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees; the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon; ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox. ⁷The voice | of the LORD bursts forth in | lightning flashes. ⁸The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!" ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore. ¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people; give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. R

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Karen Feezor, lector

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go" from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Holy Trinity Photo Op”


Pastor Ali Rode

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day “Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways” ACS 916 from *All Creation Sings*

MERLE’S TUNE


Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993, © James Quin, © 1991 GIA Pub., Inc.; Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933 © 1983 Hope Pub. Co.



1 Down Gal - i - lee’s slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it’s form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard,



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
“You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice.”
“You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord.”

The Apostles’ Creed

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

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.

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *A brief silence.*

Creator God, thank you for the mysterious beauty of this winter season and its essential role in nature's wondrous cycle. We rejoice in your promise of new life. Walk with us, your church, into the New Year of opportunity, as our thoughts turn again to beginnings, starting afresh and the promise of spring. Be with us as we gaze into the distance of what might be, of hopes and dreams, of opportunities for service, and of new challenges and uncertainties. Take our fears and turn them into strengths. Take our lack of faith and empower us through the Spirit who breathes life into this world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of Life, as your voice is upon the waters renewing all people in the waters of baptism, so cleanse and sustain the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs that life might continue to flourish in all communities. Make us to be good servants and stewards of your creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of Love, you promised us your peace – the peace that surpasses all understanding to guard our hearts and minds in Christ. In a world of perpetual conflict grant that we may be beacons of that peace, bringing justice and offering hope to a wounded world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, you are light to the nations, crossing boundaries that divide people. Heal us from our relentless sickness of the heart that categorizes and separates people from one another, even as you call each of us beloved children. Bless, heal, and comfort the sick and the dying, and give strength to all who care for them. Heal and strengthen our family and friends whom we remember daily on our Prayer List, along with those we especially remember this week: Pat Fox, Bill Bowden, Harry Kendrick, Mary Lou R., Kendal Turner, Rochelle Dagenhart, and Janice Darnell, and hear us as we name before you, either aloud or in our hearts, other names and concerns close to us... *a brief silence for names or concerns spoken aloud or in silence...* Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, we thank you for the waters of baptism, where you claim us as your beloved and call us into the world. Just as your Spirit empowered Jesus at the Jordan, we ask you to invigorate our congregation as we celebrate the installation of Pastor Ali. May we be a living sign of your grace in the heart of Charlotte—seeking justice, healing the brokenhearted, and serving our neighbors with courage. United in one baptism, lead us to die daily to sin and rise to new life, reflecting Christ's light in all that we do. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Loving Father, in baptism you give us the gift of the Holy Spirit and call us your children. Bless us always to give thanks for our baptisms that we might live to serve others, and lead us at the end of our lives to the place Jesus has prepared for us in your kingdom. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.
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

“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”

Scottish Psalter tune CAITHNESS

Setting for choir and organ by Kenneth Lowenberg

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came, as peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame. God called you "My beloved Son," the suffering servant true, sent you the kingdom to proclaim, God's holy will to do. Straightway and steadfast until death you then obeyed God's call freely as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all. Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed, that, likewise in God's service, we may our freedom find.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Baptized in Water” ELW 456 stanzas 1 & 3

BUNESSAN

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932; © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Music: Gaelic tune

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.
3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Holy Communion

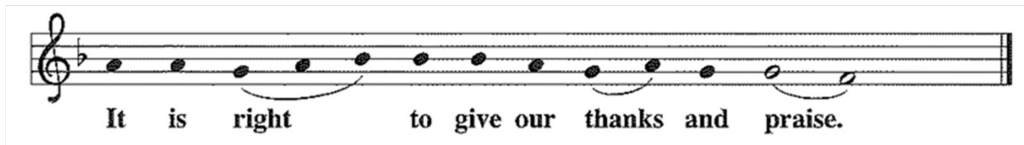
The Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

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.



Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 Come to the table; taste and see.

Please be seated.

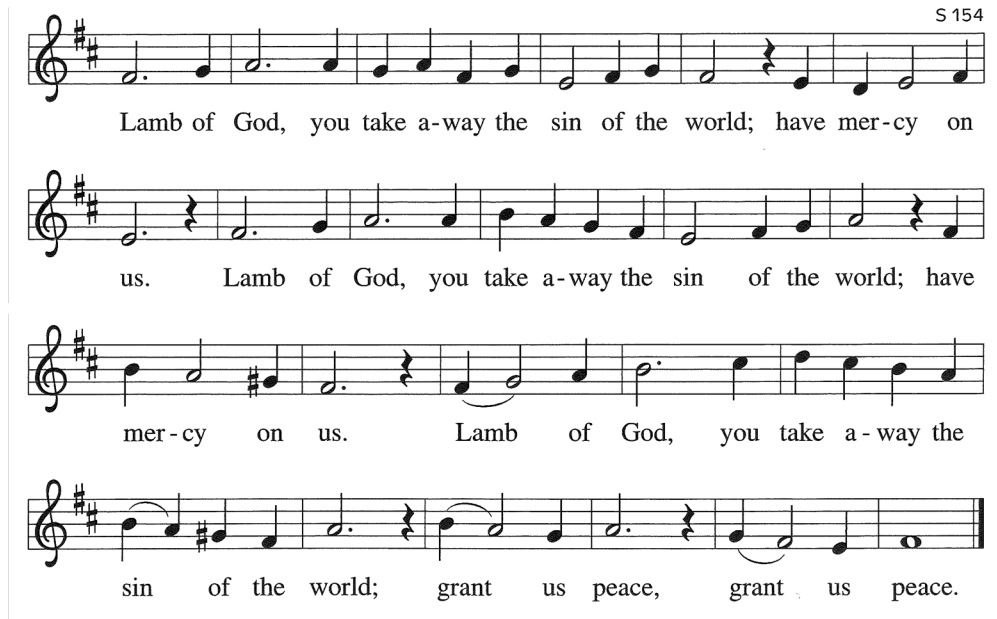
Distribution of Holy Communion

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*

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.

“Variations on ‘Crashing Waters at Creation’”

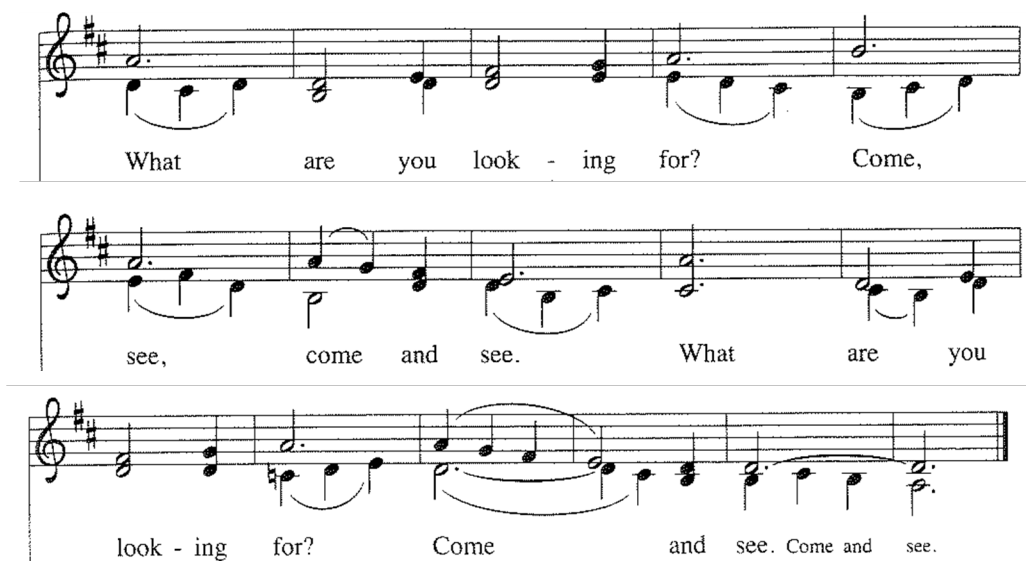
Tune STUTTGART by Christian F. Witt

Organ settings by Charles Callahan

Communion Anthem

“Come and See” ACS 976 sing two times

from All Creation Sings; COME AND SEE



What are you look - ing for? Come,
see, come and see. What are you
look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

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. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Blessing

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Crashing Waters at Creation” ELW 455

STUTTGART

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993 © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

1. Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit’s breath,
first to witness day’s beginning from the brightness of night’s death.
2. Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage—channel to a life made new.
3. Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.
4. Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

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

Postlude

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” from *An Epiphany Suite*

Sue Mitchell-Wallace



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Neil

Dixon; ushers: Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Jenny Dagenhart, Sally McCauley; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes, Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Rebecca Huang, Virginia Molan; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators :Kevin Feezor, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Nick Matherly, Taylor McNamara, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Youth; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team C; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jaccob; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Andrea Long, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators :Joe Barrett, Doug Milheim, Charles Lakeman



Parish News

From the Pastor -

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

The season of Epiphany is four to nine weeks (depending on the date of Easter), lasting from the Feast of Epiphany (January 6) through the day before Ash Wednesday (this year, February 18). The season of Epiphany as a whole focuses upon the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ. At Epiphany, Jesus' birth is announced through the Magi to the nations, and the season continues to witness to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, his baptism, the calling of his disciples, and his proclamation of the good news. The focus of this season is ever outward toward the world and all nations, hinting at the scope of our proclamation and work as modern-day Christians. On the final Sunday of this season, The Transfiguration (February 15), we see the fullness of Christ's divinity revealed in his humanity, again hinting at the gift of his Spirit which dwells in us. Epiphany is a season in which we respond in faith and service to Jesus Christ, as his contemporary day disciples and messengers, always moving ever outward with faith active in love.

In the grace and peace of Christ,
Senior Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Pastor Ali Rode's Installation: Today at 3 pm. Bishop Emily preaching. Please join us for the Rite of Installation, followed by a reception.

2026 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Space. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket.

Set the Date! The 2026 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 1/25/2026 following the 10:30 service. Printed copies of the 2025 Annual Report will be available in the Gathering Place.

Love Circle will meet January 14 at 11 am in the Large Conference Room

Ethnic Restaurant Group will enjoy delicious food at Wan Fu Chinese Restaurant at 6:00 PM on January 20, 2026. Wan Fu has satisfied customers since 1989. Flavors range from cold sesame noodles with peanut sauce, lo mein, and chow fun to clearly marked Hunan and curry dishes. Chinese Guardian Lions (Shishi statues, "Foo Dogs") welcome diners at the front door. Exquisite wood carvings enliven the interior. "Wan Fu" translates as 10,000 Happiness. Wan Fu is located at 10719 Kettering Dr, Charlotte, NC 28226. Directions (if headed):


- West on NC-51 (Pineville-Matthews Road): turn right onto Kettering Drive at Outback Restaurant.

- South on Park Road & Johnston Road: turn right onto NC-51 (Pineville-Matthews Road), then turn right onto Kettering Drive at Outback Restaurant.
- East on NC-51 (Pineville-Matthews Road): be careful and turn left onto Kettering Drive at Outback Restaurant (there is no traffic light at this T-intersection).

All are welcome! Bring a friend, neighbor, or business associate and be part of the fun. RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by midnight on Sunday, January 18th.

The St. Mark's Book Group will meet on Thursday, January 22, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our book this month is *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci. All are invited to join us for this discussion. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information. Disillusioned journalist Tom Langdon must get from Washington D.C. to L.A in time for Christmas. Forced to travel by train, he begins a journey of rude awakenings, thrilling adventures and holiday magic. He has no idea that the locomotives pulling him across America will actually take him into the rugged terrain of his own heart, as he rediscovers people's essential goodness and someone very special he believed he had lost. *The Christmas Train* is filled with memorable characters who have packed their bags with as much wisdom as mischief and shows how we do get second chances to fulfill our deepest hopes and dreams, especially during this season of miracles.

January Theology on Tap will be Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 pm (not the usual 7pm) at the home of Marty and Dawn Schwartz located at 4627 Arborloft Court Charlotte, 28270. Please bring an appetizer to share and BYOB.

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 discussions. The class meets in the Large Conference room. New members are always 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. 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 other 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. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

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



2026 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

ROOM IN THE INN Requesting donations of BEDTIME SNACKS for our 10 homeless men we host every Tuesday during January and February ----- lunch size bags of chips, pretzels goldfish; granola bars (preferably without nuts); small bags of fruit snacks. The collection basket is in the hall on the table across from the large conference room. All donated toiletries have been bagged and ready. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the Social Ministry committee and the homeless men we serve.

NOURISH UP There is a need for paper handled grocery bags used to transport food from the baker's rack to Nourish Up. If you have bags to spare, please take them to the mail room and leave them in the corner to the left as you come in.

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; Fridays women only at 6 pm & Saturday mornings 10:30 am.

Music Notes

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" ELW 310 This hymn received its first publication in 1862 in the journal *The Holy Year* by Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885). "Epiphany" means "manifestation" of Christ to the world, and the author used "manifest" twelve times to describe Christ's birth, baptism, appearance at the wedding feast of Cana, healing the sick, and his powers over evil. Thus this hymn becomes not only praise to God, but a time to learn more about Epiphany and about Christ himself. The tune SALZBURG is a late-seventeenth century German tune, probably written by Jakob Hintze (1622-1702), and the harmonization in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* is based on a setting by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

"Come and See" ACS 976 This hymn comes to us from *All Creation Sings* by American composer and musician Robert Hobby (b. 1962). He wrote this hymn on a visit to England, while participating in a one-week conference seeking to reverse declining trends in the witness/ministry of Christianity. Inspired by John 1:35-37. Hobby writes: "I had considered adding additional verses from other parts of scripture...but simply sticking to the question and answer keeps it general enough for each person gathered in worship to hear the invitation in the context of their own life issues." The tune **COME AND SEE** was written by Hobby for this hymn text.

"Baptized in Water" ELW 456 Michael Saward (b. 1932), a priest in the Church of England, wrote this hymn in 1981, with its first publication in *Hymns for Today* (1982). Paul Westermeyer writes: Each stanza begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13 and then runs out aspects of what God does in baptism—cleanses, makes us heirs of salvation, promises, brings death and life in Christ, frees, forgives, marks, and gives new life in the Spirit as God's children—so that in trust we thankfully and joyfully sing praise to God." Saward's text is wedded to the nineteenth century Scottish tune **BUNESSAN**, the name of Scottish town on the Isle of Mull. Our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* pairs this tune with three additional hymns: "Morning Has Broken" ELW 556, "This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited" ELW 586, and "Praise and Thanksgiving" ELW 689.

"Down Galilee's Slow Roadways" ACS 916 is from the "Time After Epiphany" section of *All Creation Sings*. Written by Sylvia Dunstan, (1955-1993) an ordained pastor in the United Church of Canada, wrote this hymn at the request of a worship panel, seeking new resources for hymns that specifically address adult baptism. Dunstan calls this hymn a "meditation for the Feast of the Lord's Baptism". *All Creation Sings* pairs her hymn with the tune **MERLE'S TUNE** by American composer and musician Hal H. Hopson (1933-2025), from his collection *Hymns for Our Time: The Collected Tunes of Hal H. Hopson* (2009).

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer of society, martyr, (1929-1968)

Martin Luther King, Jr. is remembered as an American prophet of justice among peoples and nations, a Christian whose faith undergirded his advocacy of vigorous yet nonviolent action for racial equality. A pastor of churches in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, his witness was taken to the streets in other such places as Birmingham, Alabama, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. Dr. King preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1964, he was murdered on April 4, 1968 in Memphis. Though most commemorations are held on the date of the person's death, many churches hold commemorations near Dr. King's birth date on January 15, in conjunction with the American civil holiday honoring him.

January 17, Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church (251-356)

Anthony was born in Qemen-al-Arous, Upper Egypt, and was one of the earliest Egyptian desert fathers. Born to Christian parents from whom he inherited a large estate, he took personally Jesus' message to sell everything, give to the poor, and follow Christ. After making arrangement to provide for the care of his sister, he gave away his inheritance and became a hermit. Later, he became the head of a group of monks that lived in community, devoting themselves to communal prayer, worship and manual labor, distributing their earned income as alms. Anthony and his monks also preached and counseled those who sought them out. Anthony and the desert fathers are a reminder of the call for Christians to also be able to renounce the world in service to Christ. The writings of the Desert Fathers are available from several publishers.

January 17, Pachomius, renewer of the church (292-348)

Another of the desert fathers, Pachomius was born in Egypt about 290. He became a Christian during his service as a soldier. In 320 he went to live as a hermit in Upper Egypt, where other hermits lived nearby. Pachomius organized them into a religious community in which members prayed together and held their goods in common. His rule for monasteries influenced both Eastern and Western monasticism through the Rule of Basil and the Rule of Benedict, respectively.



ARWEN MYERS MARYRUTH MILLER AISLINN NISKY



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 • 7:30 PM
Armida Abandoned: Handel's Dramatic Cantatas



GUY FISHMAN RENEE HENSING HEATHER MILLER LARDIN IAN WATSON

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 • 7:30 PM
The Romantic Response



LESTER ACKERMAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 • 7:30 PM
The Flute and the Cantata Tradition

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 • 3:00 pm
Organ Recital with
Lester Ackerman

Tickets: <https://bachcharlotte.com/2025-26/winterfest>

St. Mark's Prayer List

Pat Fox, Bill Bowden, Harry Kendrick, Mary Lou R., Kendal Turner, Rochelle Dagenhart, Janice Darnell, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Mark and Diane Thornton, Polly Needham, John Graham, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres & Silvia 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 1/18/2026

Second Sunday after

Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:111

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Birthdays

1/13 Andrew Abbasi

1/14 Michael Huang

1/15 Jacob Wenzel

1/16 Melissa Lavoy



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)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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**Rev. Alexandra Joy Rode, Associate Pastor
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