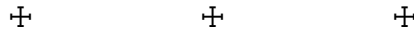




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



SERVICE OF INSTALLATION /
INVITATION TO EXTENDED SERVICE
REVEREND ALEXANDRA JOY RODE
JANUARY 11, 2026 AT 3:00 PM

Today we welcome and install the Rev. Alexandra Joy Rode, a full Elder (pastor) in the United Methodist Church, as the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry at St. Mark's. Thank you for your presence at this service and we ask that you remember Pastor Ali in prayer as she begins her ministry among us.

GATHERING

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

Prelude "Festival Prelude on 'O God Beyond All Praising'"

Tune THAXTED by Gustav Holst
Setting for trumpet and organ by David Howard Pettit

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

Processional Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW 631

HYFRYDOL

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Please be seated.

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Words of Greeting

Pastor Dan Pezet

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

“Kyrie Eleison, Lord, Have Mercy” from *All Creation Sings*

Holy Communion Setting Twelve

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise

“Glory to God in the Highest” from Holy Communion Setting One

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,
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Dan Pezet

Let us pray. Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-12

Meg Fielding, lector

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the

Please stand as able.

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

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 **John 21:15-17**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Bishop Emily Hartner

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day “And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

SAGINA

Text: Charles Wesley 1707-1788

1 And can it be that I should gain an in - terest
2 He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove, so free, so
3 Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in
4 No con - dem - na - tion now I dread: Je - sus, and
in the Sav - ior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his
in - fi - nite his grace! Emp - tied him - self of all but
sin and na - ture's night. Thine eye dif - fused a quick - ening
all in him, is mine! A - live in him, my liv - ing

pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued?
 love, and bled for A - dam's help - less race!
 ray; I woke—the the dun - geon flamed with light!
 Head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di - vine,
 A - maz - ing love! how can it be that
 'Tis mer - cy all, im - mense and free, for,
 My chains fell off, my heart was free, I
 hold I ap - proach the e - ter - nal throne, and
 thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 O my God, it found out me. A - maz - ing
 rose, went forth, and fol - lowed thee. A -
 claim the crown, through Christ my own.
 love! how can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 maz-ing love! how can it be that thou, my

The Apostles' Creed

Pastor McKenzie

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 remain standing.

Presentation

Presiding Minister.

Rev. Adrienne Ladd

Dear people of God, the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has authorized Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode, our co-worker in the gospel, for extended service in the ministry of word and sacrament in St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Ordained as a full Elder in the United Methodist Church, her church has endorsed this ministry of extended service. Bishop Emily Hartner, in accordance with the policies established by this church, has affirmed this invitation.

United Methodist Church Representative

Rev. Dan Pezet

As a representative of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, it is my

privilege to share with you that the West Ohio Conference, where Pastor Rode is an elder in full connection, has granted its permission and support for Pastor Ali Rode to be appointed in Extension Ministry to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Congregation Representative:

Meg Fielding, Call Committee Chair

After prayerful deliberation, we, of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, welcome this invitation to Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode to serve as minister of word and sacrament in this congregation. This letter attests to our willingness.

The representative gives the Presiding Minister the letter attesting to the welcome.

Please be seated.

Address and Questions

Presiding Minister:

Under the grace of God, a relationship of full communion has been established between the church body in which you serve and this church body. In recognition of that relationship, Bishop Emily Hartner of the North Carolina Synod, ELCA has authorized me to invite you to serve for this extended period of service as a minister of word and sacrament in St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

Pastor Alexandra Rode, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and in a manner consistent with the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? Will you carry out this ministry in a manner consistent with the constitutions of this church body?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and in your use of the means of grace? Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

Please stand as able. The Presiding Minister addresses the Assembly.

People of God, will you receive Pastor Alexandra Rode as a messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now invite you to take up the ministry of word and sacrament in this place.

Response of the Invited Minister:

After prayer and careful consideration, I willingly accept this invitation to serve as minister of word and sacrament in this place and among these people. I ask God's help, this synod's encouragement, and the prayers of all the people of this congregation.

Pastor Alexandra Rode, I announce to you that this ministry is authorized in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessing

The newly Invited Minister may kneel for the blessing.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

The Presiding Minister escorts Pastor Ali to the three signs of the ordained ministry, and St. Mark's Call Committee Members say:

(St. Mark's Call Committee are Meg Fielding, Shelley Ferner, Micalyne Zimmerman, Layton Campbell, Lowell Engelhard, John Simon)

(at the font) You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

(at the pulpit) You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

(at the table) You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

The Presiding Minister says:

People of God, I present to you, Pastor Alexandra Rode, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry. Let us welcome Pastor Ali in the name of Christ.

The service continues with the prayers of the church. Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

Pastors McKenzie and Pezet

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Members together in the Body of Christ, let us lift our prayers by the power of the Holy Spirit for the Church, our represented communities, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

You gather us as a hen gathers her young under her wings. Protect us from the evils which seek to harm God's beloved Children. Empower us in our ministries to 'offer openness, acceptance, and support...that welcomes all and denies every semblance of discrimination'.*1 Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You quench our thirst and grant our land refreshment from the Catawba and waterways surrounding. Help us partner with communities in protection of natural ecosystems. Bring us to a more faithful guardianship of the land as we faithfully live in, 'a web of life with one another and all creation'.*2 Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to, 'do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God'.*3 Guide us as people of justice, mercy, and love to action which displays the length height and depth of your peace, especially in the most challenging places where greed, sin, and destruction divide. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You lead us to plant trees whose shade we shall never sit in. Guide our various ministries with young people, families, and those discerning a call to ministry. Lead us to by faith, 'do good to everyone without coercion, willingly and happily; serving everyone, suffering everything for the love and praise of God, who has shown such grace'.*4 Help us pass on the faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We respond to your Grace by meditation with this historic covenant prayer,

"I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,

exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things

to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

let it be ratified in heaven."*5

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

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

Harold W. Friedell
Choir, trumpet and organ

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name, two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them: Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem. As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup. Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully, we will serve thee faithfully.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)
 "Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW 188 J. A. Freylinghausen

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

Offering Prayer

Pastor Ali Rode

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.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *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.
 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.

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.

Communion Music

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

“Aria” from *Sonata for Trumpet and Piano*, Opus 51

Flor Peeters

Communion Anthem

“Write Your Blessed Name”

K. Lee Scott
Choir and organ

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever, ever move me from you love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliv'rer in distress, and a faithful Guide to the courts of heav'n through the many temptations and dangers of this live, of this life. O Jesu, my only Savior! Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever, ever move me for your love. Amen.

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

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” ELW 815

HOUSTON

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Music: Kathleen Thomerson; T & M: 1970, 1975 Celebration

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.
Refrain

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

“Toccata from *Fifth Organ Symphony*

Charles-Marie Widor

A reception follows today's service. All are welcome.

**Today's intercessions were written by Pastor Ali Rode. Inspiration for the Intercessions in today's service come from various texts of the UMC, ELCA, Methodist and Lutheran heritages including: The Book of Discipline, The United Methodist Church P.140 "Called to Inclusiveness" 2024., A Social Statement on: Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice. ELCA p.3, I. B., The*

Book of Discipline, The United Methodist Church The General Rules of the Methodist Church 2016, Preface to Romans. Martin Luther 1522., and Covenant Prayer, John Wesley 1755.

✠ ✠ ✠

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Worship Leaders: Senior Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Associate Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; crucifer: John Simon; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Marc Ginns, Alan Harms; Jay Jacob, Jim Metze; communion assistants: Susan Lakeman, Andrea Long; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Alex Wilborn, trumpet, Jack Richardson, Taylor McNamara, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Church Representatives:

Rev. Emily Hartner, Bishop, North Carolina Synod, ELCA

Rev. Dr. Dan Pezet, Superintendent and Mission Strategist Metro District, Western North Carolina conference, The United Methodist Church

Rev. Adrienne Ladd, Associate Pastor of Family Ministry, Christ Lutheran Church, Dean of the

