ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

✠ ✠ ✠

JANUARY 18, 2026
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we "come and see" Christ revealed among us in word and the holy supper, and we are sent forth as apostles to invite others to come and see Jesus, that they might also receive his gifts of grace and peace.

GATHERING

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

Prelude "Partita on 'O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright'"
Bicinium - Pastorale
Tune WIE SCHON LEUCHTET; Settings for organ by Michael Burkhardt

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

Processional Hymn "Brightest and Best of the Stars" ELW 303 stanzas 1-4 MORNING STAR
Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.; Music: James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

2. Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and savior of all.

3. What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Please be seated

Welcome Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.
Amen.

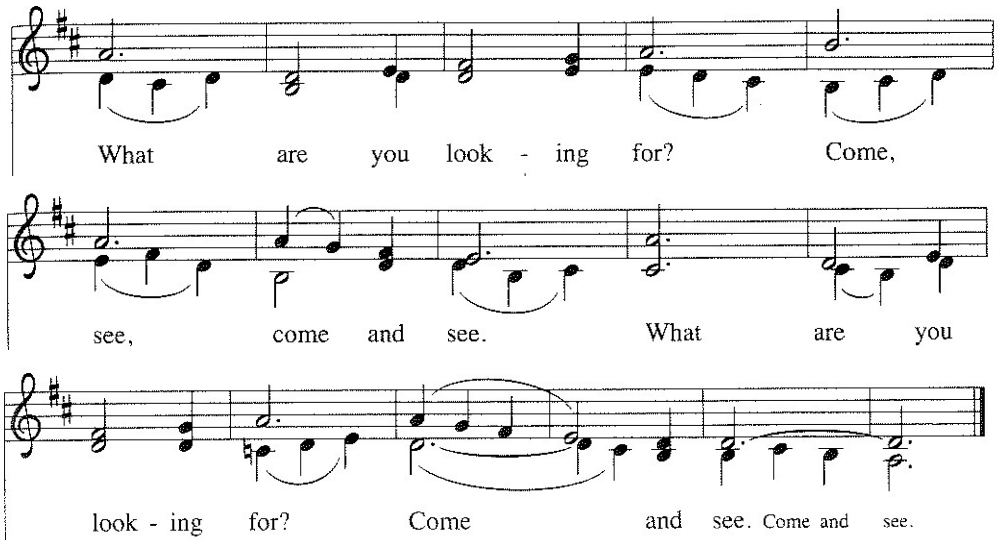
Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

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 "Come and See" ACS 976 from *All Creation Sings* COME AND SEE

Test & Music: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39 © 2020 Augburg Fortress



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
Let us pray. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

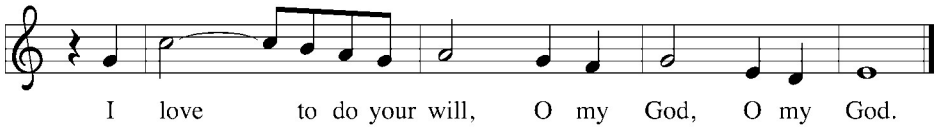
WORD

First Reading **Isaiah 49:1-7** Kay Finlon, lector

1Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was
born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. 2He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the
shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. 3And he said
to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." 4But I said, "I have labored in vain; I
have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with
my God." 5And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back
to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God
has become my strength—6he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the
tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my
salvation may reach to the end of the earth." 7Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy
One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand
up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of
Israel, who has chosen you."
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 40:1-11 Amy Woodall, Nick Hanewinckel, cantors

Psalm 40:8 (John Folkening) from *Psalter for Worship Year A*; © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



I waited patiently up- | on the LORD, who stooped to me and | heard my cry. 2The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure. 3The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD. 4Happy are they who trust | in the LORD! They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies. R 5Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be com- | pared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than | I can count. 6Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not required. R 7And so I said, "Here I | am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me: 8'I love to do your will, | O my God; your law is | deep within me.'" 9I proclaimed righteousness

in the | great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know. 10I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and | your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly. 11You are the LORD; do not withhold your com- | passion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe. R

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:1-9** Kay Finlon, lector

1Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

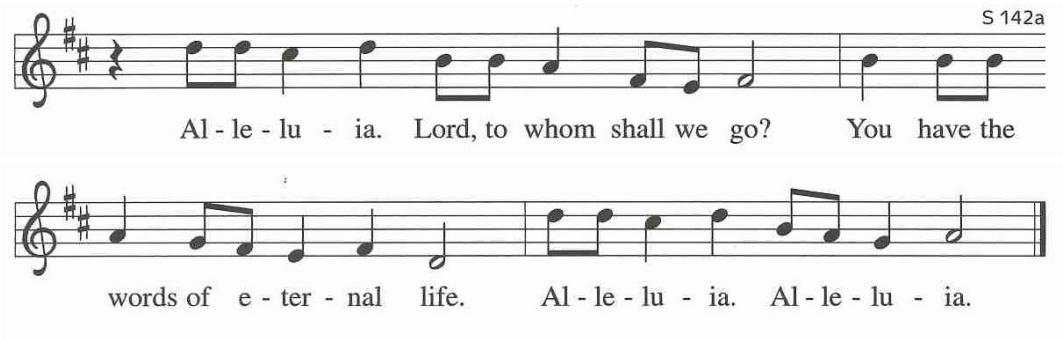
The Word of the Lord

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 **John 1:29-42**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

29The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." 35The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which

translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" [39]He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. [40]One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. [41]He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). [42]He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

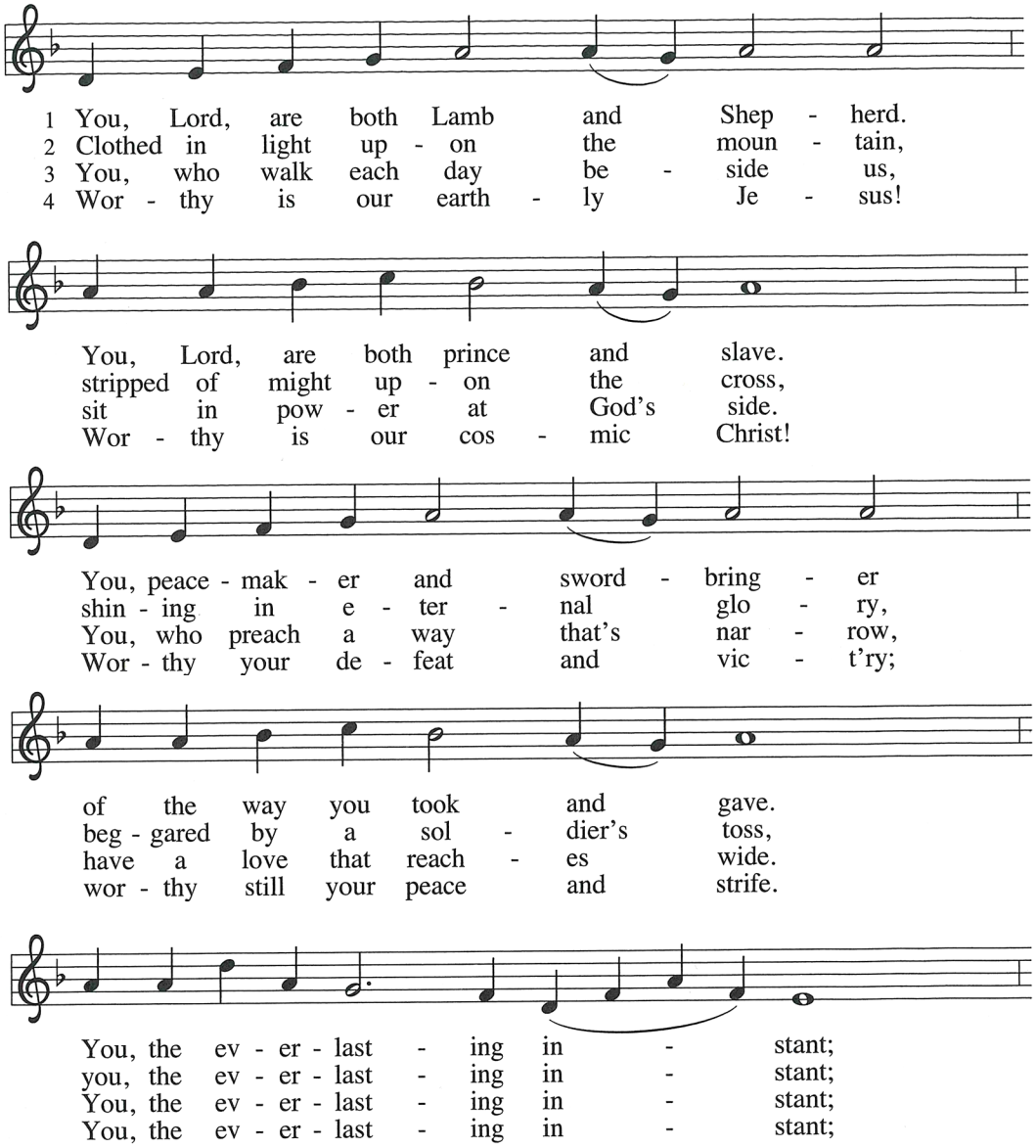
Sermon *"Come and See"* Pastor Timothy McKenzie

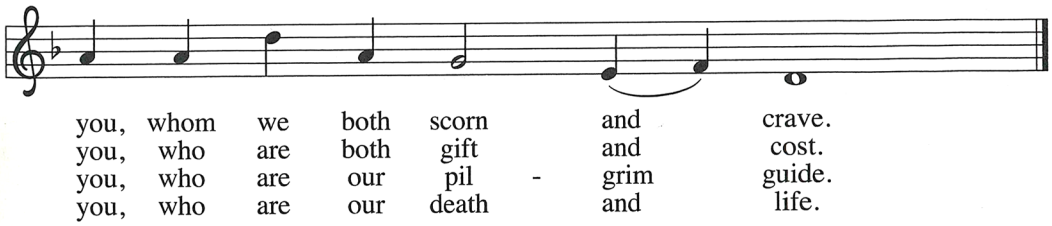
Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" ACS 954 from *All Creation Sings* PICARDY

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





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 Pastor McKenzie, prayers
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.*

Gracious God, may your church, in every place, call upon the name of Jesus Christ, the name above all other names, that we might be strengthened in every spiritual gift. Grant us such sincerity of faith that we daily respond to Jesus' call to be disciples and apostles, always inviting others to "come and see" Jesus Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creating God, you have called us into the partnership of your Son, as co-creators with him. Bless us to not only marvel and wonder at the beauty of creation, but to actively work to protect and sustain its growth. Turn us from selfish misuse of creation toward actively sharing creation's bounty with all who hunger and thirst. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Just God, you have spoken words of justice and love through the prophets, reminding us of your steadfast love for all people. So speak through the leaders of this world that they might become prophetic voices of grace and mercy toward all who are in need. Speak through the leaders of this nation to end war, welcome the stranger, and feed the hungry. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Healing God, abide with the lonely; heal and comfort the sick and the dying; and give strength to all who care for them. Bless and heal our family and friends whom we remember daily on our Prayer List, along with those we especially remember this week: Sara East, Phaedra & Scott Snow, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Polly Needham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, and Bob Roach, 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.

Abiding God, as we pause this week to give thanks for the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we also remember that you continue to speak through each of us. Send us from this church today recommitted to be voices of justice and peace in this world on behalf of "the least of these," whom your Son calls us to serve. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Faithful God, your faithfulness is always greater than our faithlessness. As we remember the first disciples, lead us daily to follow you so that wherever you are, there we may be also; and lead us at the end, to your eternal kingdom of justice and love. 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 "Exult, O Morning Stars Aflame!"

Tune by H. Walford Davies
Setting for choir and organ by K. Lee Scott

Exult, O morning stars aflame! With all the works of God proclaim the Child of Bethlehem who came for love and love alone. Come earth and air and sky and sea, bear witness to his deity who lived, the Man of Galilee, for love and love alone. By faith behold the Crucified, his arms of mercy open wide, the Lamb of Calvary, who died for love and love alone. Let ev'ry eye his glories see, who was, and is, and is to be; who reigns as Christ in Majesty for love and love alone. O world, by strife and sorrow torn, new hope is your on Christmas morn, the Prince of Peace a child is born, for love and love alone.

Please stand as able.

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

"As with Gladness Men of Old" ELW 302 stanzas 1 & 3 DIX
Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

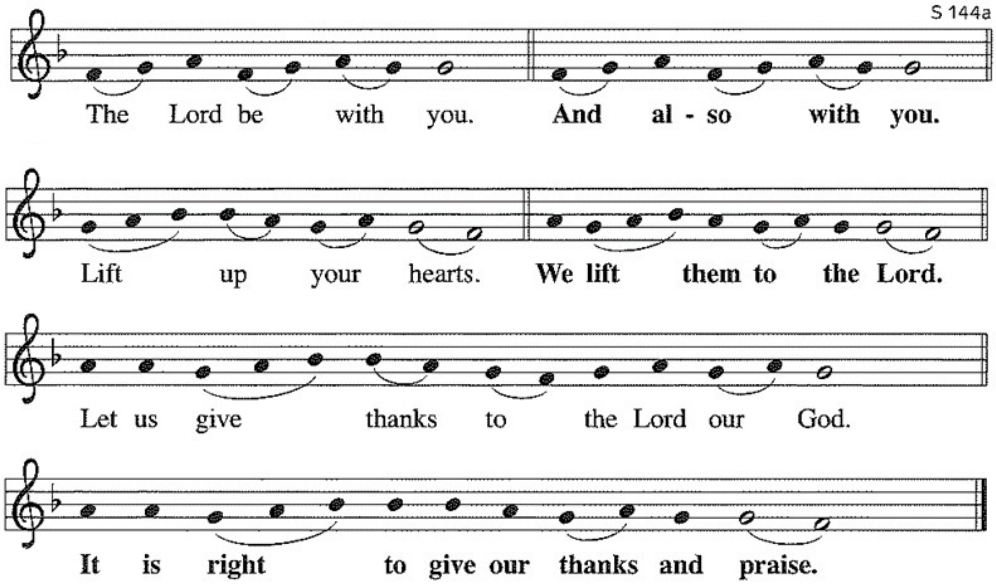
1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
   as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
   so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.

3. As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
   so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
   all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

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.

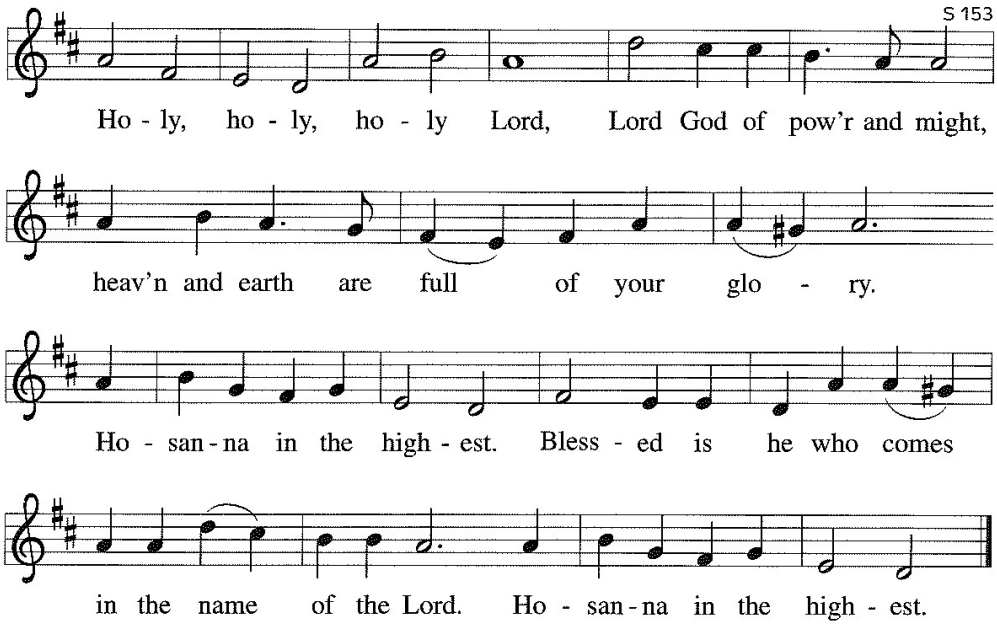
Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving



Proper Preface

Sanctus "Holy, Holy, Holy" from *Holy Communion Setting Four*



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.

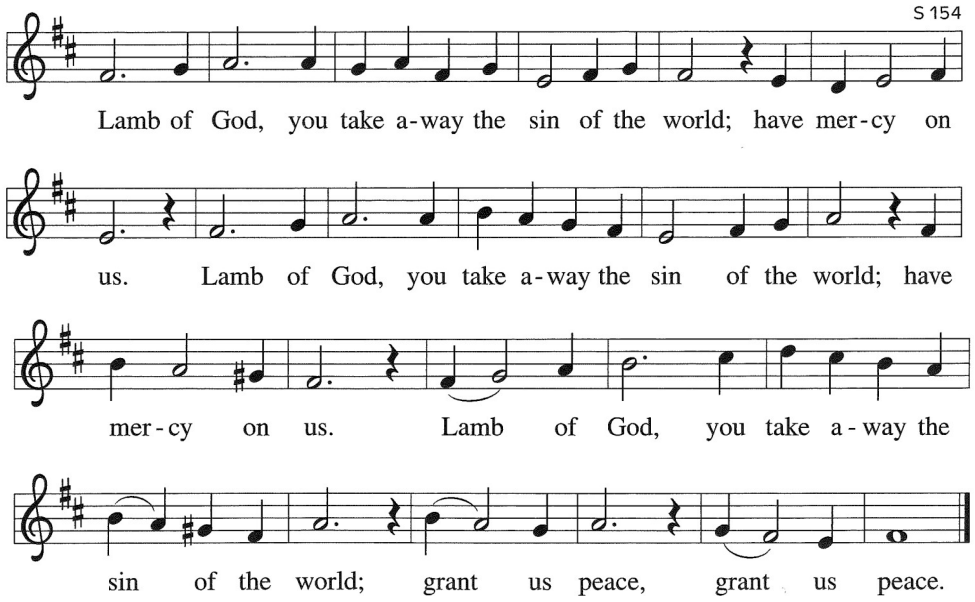
The Lord's Prayer
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; 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*

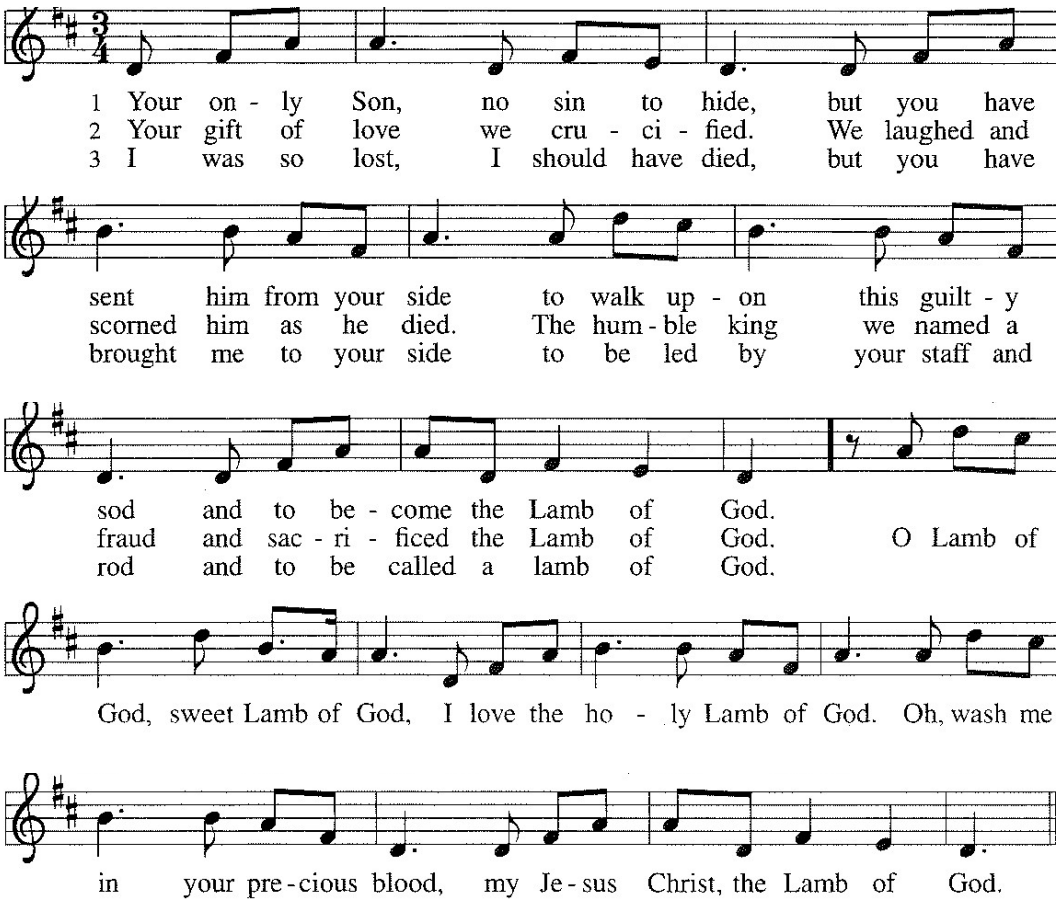


"Some Children See Him" from *Alfred Burt Carols*
Wihla Hutson and Alfred Burt
Taylor McNamara, alto

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night. Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair. Some children see Him bronzed and brown, the Lord of heav'n to earth come down. Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair. Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside. Some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue. Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray. Some children see Him dark as they, and ah! they love Him, too! The children in each diff'rent place will see the baby Jesus's face like theirs, but bright with heav'nly grace, and filled with holy light. O lay aside each earthly thing, and with thy heart as offering, come worship now the Infant King, 'tis love that's born tonight!

Communion Hymn "Lamb of God (Your Only Son)" ELW 336 YOUR ONLY SON

Text & Music: Twila Parish, b. 1958; © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music



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 "Arise, Your Light Has Come" ELW 314 FESTAL SONG

Text: Ruth Dick, b. 1947; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893, T&M: 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

1. Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
   show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
2. Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
   proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.
3. Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
   bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
4. Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
   Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

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 "From Heaven Above to Earth Below"
Tune VOM HIMMEL HOCH by Martin Luther
Setting for organ by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

✠ ✠ ✠

This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Jenny Dagenhart, Sally McCauley; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jaccob; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Andrea Long, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators : Doug Milheim, Dianne Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Amy Woodall, Nick Hanewinckel, cantors; Taylor McNamara, alto soloist; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Charles Lakeman; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team C; greeters: Millie Cansler, Dave & Eillen Dunlap; communion assistants: A.J. Pridgen, Chris Stevenson, Andrew & Tom Puky; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators : Joe Barrett, Kevin Feezor, 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

The 2026 Annual Meeting is next Sunday, 1/25/2026 following the 10:30 service. Printed copies of the 2025 Annual Report are available in the Gathering Place.

Bach Charlotte Winterfest Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31 & Feb. 1 at St. Mark's From the theatrical fire of Handel's Italian cantatas to the exuberant grandeur of Vivaldi's Gloria, our first-ever **WinterFest** brings together the extraordinary musicians of Bach Charlotte for an unforgettable week of music-making. Les Ackerman's organ recital is Feb. 1.

Japanese Folk Singer, known as "HoSoVoSo" will present a concert, 2/8 at 3 pm in the Choir Room.

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

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

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" ACS 954 from *All Creation Sings*. Susan Dunstan (1955-1993) was ordained in the United Church of Canada and 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.

"As with Gladness Men of Old" ELW 302 This popular Epiphany hymn is based on the Gospel lesson from Matthew 2:1-12 for Epiphany Day and tells of the visit of the Magi. William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) is the writer of this hymn. He was a marine insurance manager by trade, and fortunately for us, had a second career as a writer of Christmas and Easter carols and other devotional writings, including the carol "What Child Is This" ELW 296. The tune **DIX** was composed by German musician and composer Conrad Kocher (1786-1872) and is also wedded to the great hymn of praise "For the Beauty of the Earth" ELW 879.

"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.

"Lamb of God" (Your Only Son) ELW 336 This hymn text and its tune **YOUR ONLY SON,** were written by Twila Paris (b. 1958) a popular songwriter, author, vocalist, and pianist from Fort Worth, Texas. For three years she was the Gospel Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year. This hymn is what might be called a trope, or an embellishment or amplification on the historic "Lamb of God" which we sing most Sundays during Holy Communion. Paul Westermeyer writes of Paris' hymn: "In the Agnus Dei the weight falls on what God does and communal petition in response. Here what God does is present but personalized and individualized so that the emphasis falls on the sweet Lamb of God, his precious blood, and the individual singers emotive love in response. This is a solo singers voice bending toward a more communal form."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

January 19, Confession of Peter, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (January 19-26)
Begun in 1908, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance framed by two commemorations, the Confession of Peter (Jan. 18) and the Conversion of Paul (Jan. 25). Both apostles are remembered together on June 29, but these two commemorations give us an opportunity to focus on key events in each of their lives. Today we remember that Peter was led by God's grace to acknowledge Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). This confession is the common confession that unites us with Peter and with all Christians of every time and place.

January 19, Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr (unknown-1156)
Henry, an Englishman, became bishop of Uppsala, Sweden in 1152, and traveled to Finland with the King of Sweden to organize the church in Finland. He was murdered in Finland by a man he had rebuked and who was disciplined by the church. Henry is honored in the churches of both Finland and Sweden.

January 21, Agnes, martyr, (c.291-c.304)
Agnes was a Christian girl of about thirteen living Rome, despite the Roman emperor Diocletian's ruling that outlawed all Christian activity. The details of her martyrdom are unclear, but it is believed she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result. Her name appears in all martyrologies in both the East and the West. In art she is often depicted with a lamb, no doubt on account of the similarity of '*agnus*' and 'Agnes.'

St. Mark's Prayer List

Sarah East, Phaedra & Scott Snow, Bill Bowden, Harry Kendrick, Mary Lou R., Kendal Turner, Rochelle Dagenhart, Janice Darnell, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Mark Thornton, Polly Needham, Tom Tolbert, 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 &Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa & 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 1/25/2026
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Birthdays

1/19 Genna Hurley
1/20 Willa Eason
1/20 Barbara McKenzie
1/20 Tara Thompson
1/24 Mike Doyne

STEPHEN MINISTRY

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

✠ ✠ ✠

Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Rev. Alexandra Joy Rode, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
pastorali@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,
Director of Music Ministry, Organist
les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgymar, Parish Administrator
admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator
finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org