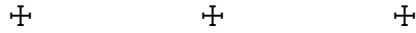




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



FEBRUARY 15, 2026

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter-Pentecost cycle that begins this week on Ash Wednesday. On a high mountain, today's gospel reveals Jesus' divinity hidden in his humanity as the divine voice says, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" Our lives are transfigured and transformed when we listen to him and follow him all the days of our lives.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Prelude on 'Beautiful Savior'"

Silesian folk tune
Setting for organ by Dale Wood

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

Processional Hymn

"Alleluia, Song of Gladness" ELW 318

PRAISE, MY SOUL

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

1. Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high:
in the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.
2. Alleluia you are sounding, true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother, bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles still are we.
3. Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin shall flow.
4. In our hymns we pray with longing: Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.

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, Bring Your Burdens to God” ACS 1009 sing two times

South African melody **WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO**

Text: South African; English text Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick, T & arr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications;
Music: South African melody; arr. Welile Sigabi

Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your

thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for

ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

Hymn of Praise

“Glory Be to God in Heaven” from *Holy Communion Setting Ten*



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

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. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

Karen Feezor, lector

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses set

out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 2

Jack Richardson, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 2:7 (Robert Wetzler) from *Psalter for Worship Year A*; © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



You are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

Why are the nations | in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats? ²Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot together, against the LORD and against the | LORD's anointed? ³"Let us break their | yoke," they say; "let us cast off their | bonds from us." ⁴God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing; the LORD holds them | in derision. R ⁵Then in wrath God | speaks to them, and in rage fills | them with terror. ⁶"As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king upon Zion, my | holy mountain." ⁷Let me announce the decree | of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance and the ends of the earth for | your possession. R ⁹You shall crush them with an | iron rod and shatter them like a | piece of pottery." ¹⁰And now, you | kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers | of the earth. ¹¹Submit to the | LORD with fear, and with trembling | bow in worship; ¹²lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden | blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God! R

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

Karen Feezor, lector

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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*



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 Matthew 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

"Listen to him"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

"Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair" ELW 316

DEO GRACIAS

Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Music: English ballad, 15th cent.



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah high the in -
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and



glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the
 car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the
 deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
 this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
 Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
 Ho - ly One says, "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
 song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
 by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

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.*

Transforming God, enlighten your church in all lands to listen to the voice of Jesus speaking in every language that it might be transfigured and transformed to radiate the light of Christ, and grant us grace here, that St. Mark's might always be a lamp shining in a dark place — a prophetic voice in the world offering the light of hope. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Living God, we give you thanks for the splendor of creation and many mountaintop vistas far removed from the cares of life, yet as we also live below the mountain, fill us with faith and confidence that you are also with us here so that we might care for the land and fields, streams and lakes you have created. Bless governments and industries that they might treat the earth with reverence, knowing that it has been given by you to sustain all living things. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Peacemaking God, as Moses took refuge on the holy mountain, seeking you, so too may the leaders of today's world seek you, so they might also give refuge and welcome to all your children. Help leaders in this nation to work with those of all nations to leave behind weapons of violence and war, and to embrace a vision of peace and inclusion that seeks the well-being of all people. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Healing God, grant wholeness and new life to all who struggle with chronic illnesses; encourage the dying with the hope of eternal life in you; and grant insight and wisdom to all physicians, nurses, and counselors that they might embody your good and gracious will for all people. Bless, heal, and sustain our church family and friends, especially, Bonnie Sauer, Sarah East, Phaedra & Scott Snow, Bill Bowden, Harry Kendrick, Kendal Turner, Rochelle Dagenhart, Janice Darnell, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Polly Needham, Mark Thornton, 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. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Revealing Christ, in worship as we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive your holiness in bread and wine, may you so dwell in us that we might reveal you through our own hands and voices. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, as you renewed the saints of every time and place, so renew us that Jesus Christ, the Morning Star, might shine forth through us, helping us to renew the wilderness of the world with the light of hope; and bring us by that light into your kingdom that has no end. 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 lovingkindness 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.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING *(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)*

Anthem "Jesus, On the Mountain Peak"
Tune TRANSFIGURATION by Michael Burkhardt
Setting for choir and organ by Michael Burkhardt

Jesus, on the mountain peak, stands alone in glory blazing. Let us, if we dare to speak, join the saints and angels praising: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Trembling at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking. All the Prophets and the Law shout through them their joyful greeting: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in its thunder, Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Jesus is the chosen One, living hope of ev'ry nation, hear and heed him ev'ryone; sing, with earth and all creation, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Please stand as able.

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

"I Love to Tell the Story" ELW 661 stanza one

HANKEY

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911; Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Offering Prayer

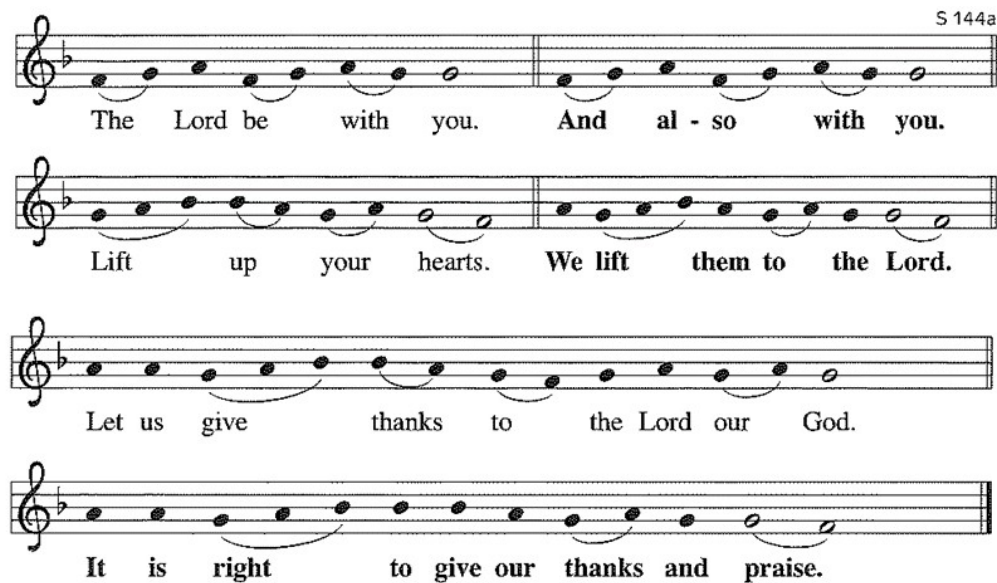
Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

S 144a



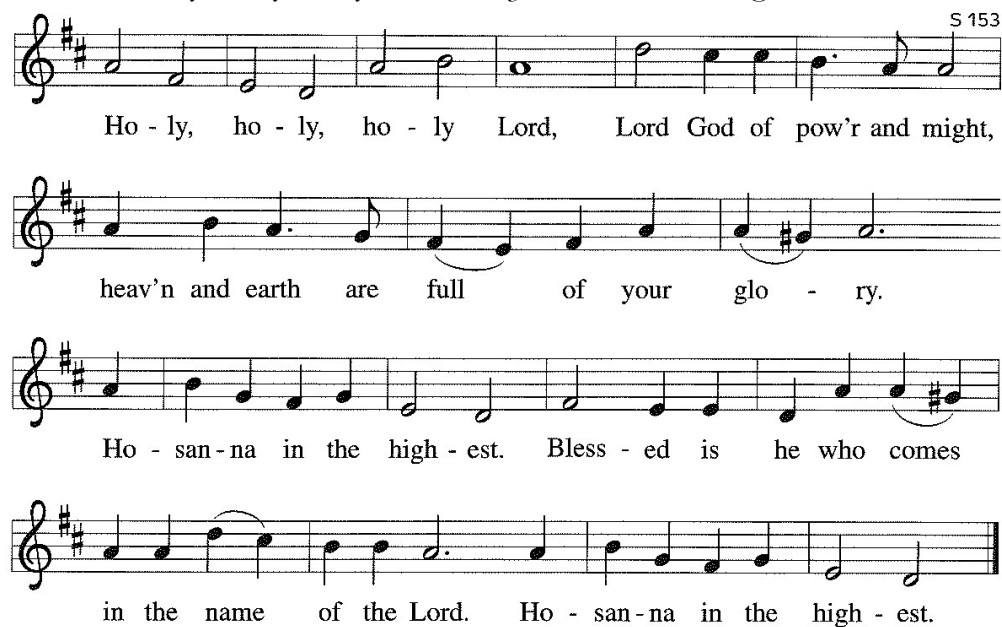
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

"Trio on 'Beautiful Savior'" from *Ten Hymn Preludes*

David S. Harris

Communion Hymn

"Beautiful Savior" ELW 838

SCHONSTER HERR JESU

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Munster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904; Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

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

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ELW 834

ST. DENIO

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.; Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

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

“Improvisation on ‘Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair’”

15th century English tune DEO GRACIAS

Organ setting by Stephen Gabrielsen



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Chuck Baynard; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Michael Thompson; greeters: Patrick & Rebecca Huang, Kay & Tom Sehorn; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Rebecca Huang, Jay Jacob, Virginia Molan; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators : Janice Miller, Dianne Thomas; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir; Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team A; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Andrew Puky, Chris Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators : Karen Feezor, Janice Miller, Dwan Schwartz

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

Altar Flowers Today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, John & Charlotte McCauley and Evan & Libby MacWhirter and their February birthdays by Sally McCauley, Stan & Gigi (McCauley) Hankins and Stan & Sharon (MacWhirter) Cooper.

Flower Arrangements in the Gathering Place are given in loving memory of John Graham from Marilyn, children and grandchildren.

Annual Meeting Today following the 10:30 am service.

Souper Bowl of Caring 2026 has been extended through Sunday 2/22. Help "Tackle Hunger" in our community by donating non-perishable food items (no glass) for the hungry in our community!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper This Tuesday, 2/17 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to join

us as we celebrate the last day before Lent starts. Please sign up on the Sign Up Genius link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-61747917-shrove>) or on the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Place to register. Pancakes, bacon, fruit salad, and juice and a gluten free option. Please sign up and check the "Gluten Free" box if you need this option. There is no charge, and all are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday 2/18 Imposition of Ashes 12:15 pm and 7 pm (also online).

Lenten Wednesday Suppers, 6 pm-6:45 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning 2/25.

Lenten Midweek Prayer, 7 pm (in-person and online), beginning 2/25. Make Lent a time of prayerful renewal.

Ethnic Restaurant will celebrate Mardi Gras (a.k.a. "Shrove Tuesday") at St. Mark's Congregational Life Committee's pancake supper on February 17th. Please sign-up (see above). Come, bring friends, and be "shriven".

St. Mark's Men's Group February 17/18 the men's group will host Room in the Inn and assist with the Pancake Supper.

Theology on Tap Thursday, February 19 at 7 pm at Custom Home Pubs located at 1640 Sardis Rd North Suite 120 in the Galleria Village Shopping Center. Mexican restaurant next door for those wanting dinner. Everyone is welcome!

The St. Mark's Book Study Group's Thursday, February 26, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our selection for this month is *The Healing Season of Pottery* by Yeon Somin. Often compared to other "comfort" reads, this story is a cozy Korean novel about a burned-out TV writer, Jungmin, who quits her job and finds healing and community at a pottery studio in Seoul. The book follows her journey as she slowly rebuilds her life, learns to work with clay, and forms new friendships, all while exploring themes of self-discovery, slowing down, and finding balance in a fast-paced world. Everyone can benefit from the ideas expressed in this story. All are welcome to participate. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

Carolina Pro Musica in Concert 2/27/25 7:30 PM "An Italian Souvenir" Italy was the source for the creation of new musical ideas by adding much improvisation and ornamentation. Plucked and bowed string instruments were used as the continuo in music of the middle and high baroque. William Simms joins on the orbo. Half price tickets for SMLC using code StMarksHO

at <https://www.carolinapromusica.org/schedule>

2026 Offering Envelopes are in the office. If you have not gotten yours, please call or stop by.



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

2/22 Family Ministry Committee 12 noon in the small conference Room.

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

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

"Alleluia, Song of Gladness" ELW 318, is the last hymn in the Epiphany section of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Hymns on this Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration of Our Lord reflect the end of one season, and anticipate the beginning of our Lenten journey this next week. This 11th century Latin hymn was translated into English by John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and comes to us from a time when the alleluias were "buried", and no longer sung or spoken in worship during the season of Lent. The third stanza reminds us "Alleluias cannot always be our song while here below". The tune **PRAISE, MY SOUL** was written by John Goss in 1868 for the hymn "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" (ELW 865)

"Beautiful Savior" ELW 838 This hymn came from Roman Catholic Jesuits in Germany, published in a hymnbook from 1677. An early English translation by Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900), (who also wrote the tune for "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" ELW 282), gave it the title "Fairest Lord Jesus", but most English-speaking Lutherans use the translation by Joseph Seiss (1823-1904). His four stanzas were published in the *Sunday School Book for the use of Evangelical Lutheran Congregations* (Philadelphia, 1873) and appear almost exactly in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. This hymn emphasizes the beauty and wonder of Christ, and it alludes to his dual nature, that he was both human and divine, God made flesh: "Son of God and Son of Man". The tune **SCHONSTER HERR JESU** is a common folksong from the region of Silesia (which is now Polish, Czech, and German territory). The tune was first transcribed in 1839 by August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben (1798-1874), director of the choir school at St. Thomas' Church in Leipzig, the church served for many years by the great Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" ELW 834 Scottish Pastor, Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) wrote this hymn in six stanzas and included it in his *Hymns of Christ and the Christian Life* (London, 1867). The four stanzas included in our hymnal are based on I Timothy 1:17, "To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever". Randy Stevens writes in his book *Be Still My Soul*, "In this hymn of pure praise, Smith acknowledges that at times, God seems hidden from us--inaccessible--not because of any lack of love on his part but rather because we are not capable of beholding his full glory. It is the splendor of light that hides him". In 1906 British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams was the first to pair this text to the eighteenth-century Welsh tune **ST. DENIO**. The tune title refers to St. Denis, the patron saint of France. **ST. DENIO** is based on a traditional Welsh ballad "A Hundred Years from Now" popular in the nineteenth century.

"I Love to Tell the Story" ELW 661 Arabella Katherine Hankey (1834-1911) a nineteenth century English poetess, was born into a family of wealthy Anglican evangelicals. This hymn is from her seventy-four stanza poem "The Old, Old Story" published in New York in 1875. Austin Lovelace writes of this hymn: "Many people sing this hymn vigorously but do little to go out and 'tell the story' beyond the church walls. Kate Hankey startled England by the unheard-of thing by starting a Bible class for working girls in London. She also served as a nurse in South Africa, and turned over all proceeds from her writings to Christian missions. She lived what she wrote!" Philadelphia musician and piano dealer William G. Fischer (1835-1912) wrote the tune **HANKEY** and added the refrain.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

February 18, Martin Luther (1483-1546), renewer of the church

On this day in 1546, Martin Luther died at the age of sixty-two. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it was his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, public confessor of the faith, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, musician, and father of German vernacular literature that holds him in our remembrance. In Luther's own judgment, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism, written to instruct people in the basics of faith. An accomplished musician, Luther published the first vernacular hymnal in 1524 which has had lasting impact upon Protestant and Catholic hymnals alike. The *ELW* contains sixteen hymns for which Luther either composed music or words, or that he translated. Significantly, it was faith in the promises of baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Bonnie Sauer, Sarah East, Phaedra & Scott Snow, Bill Bowden, Harry Kendrick, 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 2/22/2026

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Birthdays

2/16 Gene Daniels

2/17 Claire Dixon

2/17 Daniel Adden

2/18 Barry Fulp

2/18 Eleanor Taylor

2/21 Max Doyne



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



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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**Rev. Alexandra Joy Rode, Associate Pastor
for Family Ministry**

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**Lester Ackerman,
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Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

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