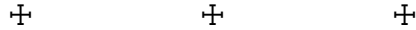




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



FEBRUARY 8, 2026

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

We hear the call to work for justice and peace through the scriptures shared this morning. We are reminded to share bread with the hungry and shine light so others will see God. So may our worship together, with the help of God, grant us strength in challenging times to respond by doing good as a response of God's love for us. As Martin Luther reminds us, "God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does."

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Prelude on "THAXTED""

Tune by Gustav Holst

Settings for organ by Charles Callahan

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

Processional Hymn

"God, Whose Almighty Word" ELW 673

ITALIAN HYMN

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.; Music: Felice de Giardin, 1716-1796

1. God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.
2. Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, healing and sight; health to the troubled mind, sight where illusions blind; oh, now to humankind let there be light.
3. Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy dove, speed forth your flight; move on the water's face bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place let there be light.
4. Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might: boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

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.

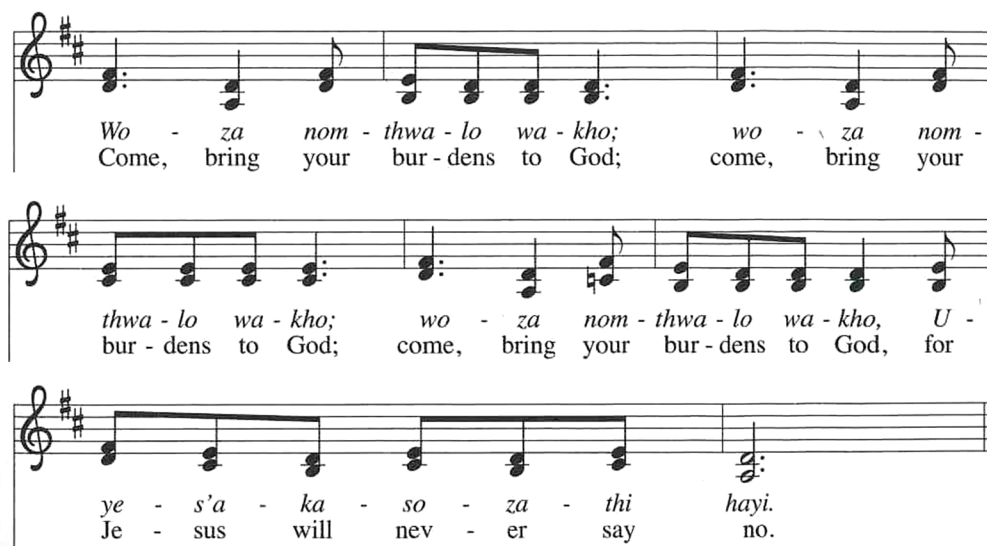
Amen.

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

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

their righteousness will last forever. 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. R 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice. 6 For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance. 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies. 9 They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor. 10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish. R

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God’s wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”— ¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by 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*

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine

before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Generous God, Generous Good”

Pastor Ali Rode

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

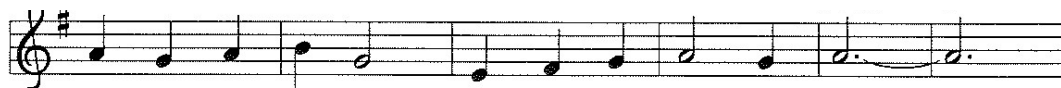
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, © 1966 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: J. G. Wener, *Choralbuch*, 1815



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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.*

God of justice, you call us not to outward fasting but to a fast that loosens the bonds of injustice, lets the oppressed go free, feeds the hungry, and brings the homeless poor into your house. Bless your church and our congregation that in fasting from the world, we open our hearts and hands to welcome the poor in our community, for in doing so, we welcome your Son Jesus. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of life, you call us to care for creation, yet the world you have created cries out with polluted air and soil, and we travel oceans and roads littered with garbage. In your wisdom, help us to care for, renew, and sustain the environment with which you have blessed us so that generations among all the nations might know and praise you for your abundance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your children in every land continue to suffer injustice, crying out to you, "How long?" Bless the leaders of our own nation, along with the leaders of all nations, to fast from war, greed, and violence; and instead, to govern with compassion, mercy, and understanding, knowing that you are a God of peace who judges all people with justice and mercy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of hope, lift and save all who have been brought low by hatred and oppression, by addiction and despair, and by sickness and impending death. Give strength to all caregivers, counselors, and first responders that they might continue to be your hands of healing. 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.

God of wisdom, you reveal your strength in the weakness of the cross, and call us to follow your Son in lives that share in the sufferings of Christ in this world. Help us to be salt and light to all who suffer because of poverty, discrimination, and war; and help us to be your living voice of hope for displaced families and orphaned children that they might live on streets and in cities that are welcoming and safe. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of light, as we wait for the new Jerusalem, inspire and help us to live as light in this world. As the saints of old, help us to radiate your love and justice toward all people that they may know your lovingkindness, and at the end of our lives, bring us with all the saints into your eternal kingdom of light 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 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 "Rise, Shine!" Tune WOJTKIEWIECZ by Dale Wood
Setting for choir and organ by Dale Wood

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded. See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven. Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate your joy, now come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers against the darkness burling. To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory. Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation his new creation. Rise and shine!

Please stand as able.

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

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" ELW 712 stanza one BEACH SPRING

Text Albert F. Bayle, 1901-1984, ©Oxford University Press; Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985 © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

1. Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.

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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff continues with 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff reads 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth and final staff concludes with '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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff continues with 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff reads 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth and final staff concludes with '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.

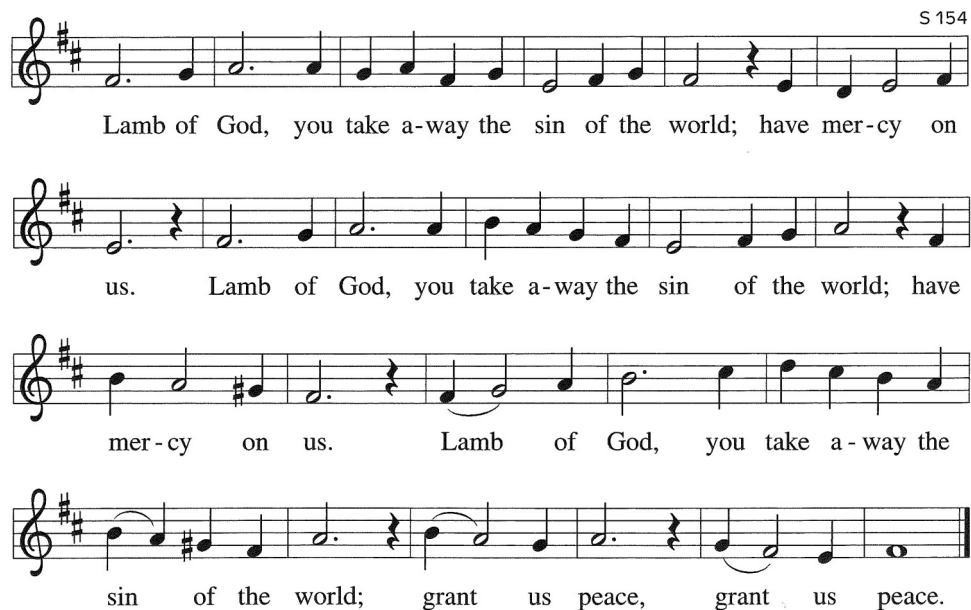
Please be seated.

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.

"Prelude on 'Let Us Break Bread Together'"

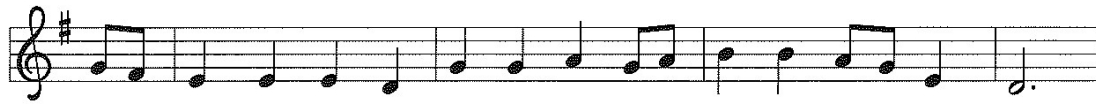
African American Spiritual
Organ setting by Martha Sobaje

Communion Hymn

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW 611

KINGSFOLD

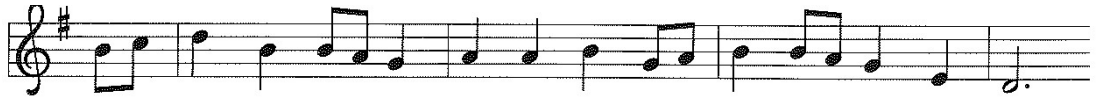
Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889; Music: English folk tune



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

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

"Bring Forth the Kingdom"


Text and music by Marty Haugen

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 © 2000, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc; Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924




1 You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple: salt for the king - dom of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple: light for the cit - y of God!

Leader All

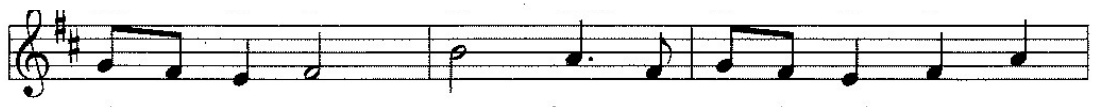


Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!


Refrain



Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the



king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,



bring forth the cit - y of God!

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

“Grand Symphonic March” Op. 17

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

+ + +

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Michael Thompson; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Karen & Kevin Feezor, Janice Miller, John Simon; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Kevin Feezor; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir; Amy Woodall, directing; Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lee Northcutt, guest organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Youth; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Chuck Baynard; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team A; 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

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 in memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Sehorn and Mr. & Mrs. Onree Crocker from Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Kay Sehorn, Mr. & Mrs. Matt & Ashley Frusti, and Mr. & Dr. Bryan & Shelley Ashcroft.

Organist: Les Ackerman is away today. We are pleased to welcome guest organist, Lee Northcutt!

Today: Japanese singer, HoSoVoSo (Yuki Ota), 2/8 3pm. Choir Room. All are welcome.

Annual Meeting has been moved to Sunday, 2/15 following the 10:30 am service (Only one 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!

Love Circle will meet Wednesday, 2/11 at 11 am, Large Conference room. Join us!

The John Graham Memorial Service will be Saturday, February 14 at 1 pm. Music will begin at 12:30. A time of Visitation will take place, 12 pm - 1 pm, and a Reception will follow the service.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper On 2/17

Congregational Life will host a pancake supper at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to join us for a fun evening 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 call the church office to register. The menu will include pancakes, bacon, fruit salad, and juice and a gluten free option. We ask that you sign up on the provided link 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 monitor Congregational Life Committee's announcements and sign-ups for details. Come, bring friends, and be "shriven".

St. Mark's Men's Group will help congregation Life with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on 2/17. February 17/18 the men's group will host Room in the Inn. We need volunteers to drive the van to pick up and return the guest to the urban ministry site, individuals to prepare the evening meal for our guests, two night sitters, individuals to provide breakfast and a different group of individuals to prepare and provide bag lunches for 10 guests. Please sign up in the Gathering Space.

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

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 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

"Rise, Shine, You People!" ELW 665 was written by Ronald A. Klug (b. 1939) for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany in 1974. Paul Westermeyer says in his *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* "the gospel for that day was Luke 4:21-30, where Jesus went to the synagogue with the people on the sabbath and read the scroll from Isaiah 4: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to bring good news to the poor...release to the captives. Or in the words of the hymn, Christ the Lord has entered our human story. So rise, shine, celebrate, and hurl your songs and prayers against the darkness." The tune **WOJKIEWIECZ** was written by American composer and musician Dale Wood (1934-2003) for this hymn and was published in *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978). The tune bears Dale Wood's Polish family name, which was simplified when his family came to the United States.

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW 611 This hymn is one of over six hundred hymns that come to us from the pen of Scottish author, pastor and editor Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). It was included in the author's *Hymns Original and Selected* (London, 1846) with the title "The Voice from Galilee." Each stanza is Jesus' call in the first two lines, with our response in the last two, expressing the peace that Jesus brings to us. Our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* pairs Bonar's hymn with two contrasting tunes, **KINGSFOLD** and **THIRD MODE MELODY #332**.

"Christ, Be Our Light" ELW 715 Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) wrote both the text and tune for this hymn. Farrell is a liturgical composer in Great Britain who has been part of the church's liturgical renewal since the Second Vatican Council. Paul Westermeyer writes of this hymn: "This hymn by Bernadette Farrell is structured so that the stanzas press from longing for the signs of the kingdom of God to us as its servants and signs. The refrain that follows is a petition that Christ would be our light and shine in our hearts as the church is gathered by that light."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

February 14, Cyril, monk (826–869) and Methodius, bishop (815–885), missionaries to the Slavs

Cyril and Methodius were brothers from a noble family in Thessalonika in northeastern Greece. They were Byzantine theologians and missionaries to the Slavic people. Since Slavonic had no written form at the time, the brothers established a written language based upon the Greek alphabet. The Cyrillic alphabet is named after them. They translated the New Testament, the Psalms and parts of the Old Testament into the Slavic language. They also translated the liturgy using the Cyrillic alphabet. The success of their missionary work was a result of their employing the local language for translation and teaching rather than Latin or Greek, though this brought them into repeated conflict with Rome. The Czechs, Serbs, Croats, Slovaks, and Bulgars regard these brothers as the founders of Slavic literature. The brothers' work in preaching and worshiping in the language of the people are honored by Christians in both East and West.

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 Bor-delon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Bohel-er, 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 2/15/2026

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Birthdays

2/9 Davis Ferner

2/10 Finley Lepkowski

2/12 Elizabeth Williams

2/13 Jake Weckerle

2/14 Rebecca Huang



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

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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 Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org