



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MARCH 1, 2026

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

During Lent we journey with Jesus and his church around the world, and today we remember how Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. In Holy Baptism we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From today's worship we are again sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Meditation” from Partita on ‘*Lift High the Cross*’

Tune CRUCIFER by Sydney H. Nicholson

Organ setting by Charles Callahan

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

Processional Hymn

“Lift High the Cross” ELW 660

CRUCIFER

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956; Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947; T&M: ©1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought,
word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together in Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may
live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Kyrie

“Savior, When in Dust to You” ELW 601 stanza one

ABERYSTWYTH

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.; Music: Joseph Parry, 1841-1903

1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;
when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes:
oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us he-low.
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

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, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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

Genesis 12:1-4a

Flora Chance, lector

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 121

Nick Matherly, Nick Hanewinckel, cantors

Psalm 121:2(Mark Shepperd) from *Psalter for Worship Year A*; © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
my help comes from the Lord.

¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills; from where is my | help to come? ²My help comes | from the LORD, the maker of heav- | en and earth. ³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep. ⁴Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R ⁵the LORD watches | over you; the LORD is your shade at | your right hand; ⁶the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night. ⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life. ⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in, from this time forth for- | evermore. R

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Flora Chance, lector

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³ For the promise that he would

inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation “Return to the Lord, Your God” from *Holy Communion Setting Four*

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,

slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel **John 3:1-17**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Born of the Spirit”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“God Loved the World” ELW 323

ROCKINGHAM OLD

Text: *Geangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt; Music: Edward Miller, 1731-1807, adapt.

1. God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe should ever-lasting life receive.
2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.
3. If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.
4. Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus’ blood, your baptism grants the highest good.
5. All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

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

Melissa Smith, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

Welcoming God, you gather strangers and make them family. You lead wanderers into belonging and plant your people where they may grow. Be near to all who are searching for a church home. Calm their uncertainty. Heal past wounds carried from other communities. Give them the courage to step through new doors and open hearts to receive them with warmth and grace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Living One, you are eternal and the sun, moon, and stars declare your goodness. Bless us that we might continue to better understand the Earth our home, and lead and enlighten conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation that we might continue to use it wisely. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of steadfast promise, guide leaders of nations and communities. Where there is division, sow understanding. Where there is injustice, awaken bravery. Where there is despair, plant seeds of hope. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Guiding One, you watch our going out and our coming in. Bless this congregation on all our journeys and grant us the faith and strength to follow Jesus, daily carrying his cross of discipleship and service. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of compassion, be near to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Be a shelter for those without safety. Be comfort for those who grieve. Be healing for those who are ill. Lord, strengthen caregivers and sustain all who wait patiently for relief. Bless and heal our church family and friends, especially, James Watson, 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, 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.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep; you are our keeper in life and in death. Born of the Spirit, lead us by grace, granting us faith all our lives so that we might love and serve you and our neighbors, and in death, may we inherit your eternal kingdom. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
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 “Shine on Us, Lord Jesus” Lee Dengler

You are the Light. You guide us in Your way. You are the Way that leads us to truth. You are the Truth that brings to us new life. Shine on us, Lord Jesus. You are the Life. Light of the world, we feel the radiance of Your glory. We trust in You to lead us through the night. We find our place within redemption’s story, as we reflect Your love that shines so bright. Shine on us. Lord Jesus. You are the Life.

Please stand as able.

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

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” ELW 811

DER AM KREUZ

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Stromme, 1856-1921, alt. Music: Johann B. König, 1691-1758

On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,
that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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 *All Creation Sings Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, 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

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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 Twelve*



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.

"I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ" BWV 639

Johann Sebastian Bach

Communion Hymn

"Just As I Am, without One Plea" ELW 592

WOODWORTH

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868



1 Just as I am, with-out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a-bout with man-y a con-flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re-ceive, wilt wel-come, par-don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro-ken ev-'ry
shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man-y a doubt, fight-ings and fears with-in, with-out,
cleanse, re-lieve; be-cause thy prom-ise I be-lieve,
bar-rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a-lone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ grant you peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” ELW 803

HAMBURG

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrows meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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

Postlude

“Praeludium in G Minor”

Nicolaus Bruhns

☩ ☩ ☩

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Rod Stephens; greeters: Eddie & Carol

Goodall, Tara & Michael Thompson; communion assistants: Charles & Susan Lakeman, Andrea Long, Tom Puky; communion helper: Flora Chance; tabulators : Susan League, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Nick Matherly, Nick Hanewinckel, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team B; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp; communion assistants: Bonnie Eckerd, John Simon, Nick Wartner, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators : A.J. Pridgen, Karen Feezor

Parish News

From the Pastor -

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Lent is the forty-day journey of renewal in discipleship to Jesus, who calls us daily to self-denial and the way of the cross. Jesus' words about self-denial invite us to examine ourselves in the most profound way. Who is this person I think I am? Who is this "self" I think I know well, yet remains elusive? The Lenten journey of forty days is an invitation to see and understand ourselves on the way of the cross that Jesus walks. To follow Jesus is not the work of a single day, or even forty days; it is the discipleship of a lifetime. Lent provides an opportunity to sharpen our focus upon Jesus and his suffering love, so that freed from self-centered desires, we might live more fully for Jesus in service to others. This Lent may you rediscover his renewing grace and may we serve him in our life together at St. Mark's.

In the fellowship 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 Glory of God and in honor of Virigina Edahl's birthday by Joann and Cliff Edahl and Virginia and Brendan Molan.

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Wednesday Suppers, 6 pm-6:45 in the Fellowship Hall, through 3/25.

3/4 meal provided by Worship & Music.

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

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: Lenten boxes will be in the Gathering Place today along with a letter noting that our donations will help support NAMI Charlotte (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Please construct it with your name on it and put it in a visible location to remind you daily of Jesus' sacrifice for you. We will not accept coins but will accept bills or simply a check made out to St. Mark's. Donations can also be made online. Please return your boxes by Easter.

Love Circle will meet Wednesday, 3/11 at 11 am in the Large Conference room. Join us!

St. Mark's Men's Group Saturday, March 14 at 9 am: We will have our usual monthly meeting in the Fellowship Hall. During this meeting we will need to discuss and coordinate upcoming activities. We will do our first street cleanup for 2026 of Kenilworth and Scott Avenues immediately following the meeting.

St Mark's Ethnic Restaurant Group will sample traditional Spanish cuisine at Miro Spanish Grill on March 17th at 6:00 PM. Depending on our headcount, we may have some menu limitations. Regardless of details, the food will be spectacular and have names that although possibly unfamiliar may be generally pronounceable. The fare may go with tapas or mains. Either approach is guaranteed to please. Do try to save a little space for the desserts, which are always delightful. RSVP to Tom and Judy Tolbert by

midnight on March 12.

Theology on Tap March 19 at 7pm. We'll meet at the Rusty Onion, 6654 Carmel Road. Everyone is welcome!


Carolina Pro Musica "Celebrating America's 250!" 3/20/26 at 7:30 pm. Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with music that was performed in Boston, Philadelphia, Williamsburg and other places in colonial America with tunes you may know and ones you wish you did. Half price tickets for SMLC: enter StMarksHO on the CPM website.

Charlotte Flute Association Members' Recital 3.22.26 at 2:30 pm. Free admission. All are welcome!

The St. Mark's Book Group will meet on Thursday, March 26, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. This month's selection is *Theo* of Golden by Allen Levi. The story is set in the small southern town of Golden, GA. Theo is a mysterious and distinguished older gentleman who arrives to spend a year in Golden. He discovers, on the walls of the local coffee shop, wonderful portraits of a large number of town residents. He studies them intently and subsequently starts buying them in order to give them to the people portrayed. Many interesting relationships and situations result, with far more people affected than Theo would have imagined. The story has many lessons to teach us about suffering, loss, kindness, possible new beginnings, and enrichments of people's lives. All are welcome to join us for this discussion. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

Japanese Association in Charlotte Spring Festival 3/28/26 from 3-5pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior Voice Recital 3/29/26 at 4 pm for UNCC senior Jack Richardson.

 **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 Over 8 nights this season, we kept 78 unhoused neighbors off the street through Room in the Inn — including 6 women, 4 children, and 68 men. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and prayed. Your compassion made a tangible difference. Social Ministry Committee

NOURISH UP March Mayhem: This month, let's fill the shelves with foods that start with the letter M! Think: mustard, mayo, mac & cheese, canned mushrooms, and canned "maters" (tomatoes). Every "M" makes a difference!

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

Music Notes

"God Loved the World" ELW 323 This anonymous German hymn text, based primarily on John 3:16, is perfectly paired with the English psalm tune **ROCKINGHAM OLD**. This hymn text first appeared in a large collection of hymns (1,313 total) published in 1778. August Crull (1854-1923) made the first English translation, published in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book* (Baltimore, 1889). August Crull was born in Germany, but spent most of his life in the United States. He began his studies at Concordia College, and was a graduate of Concordia Seminary. Edward Miller (1731-1807) included the tune **ROCKINGHAM OLD** in his collection *Psalms of David for the Use of Parish Churches* (London, 1790). In addition to being a publisher, organist, and writer, he was an accomplished flutist, and apparently played flute for the great George Frideric Handel.

"Lift High the Cross" ELW 660 was first published in 1916, and included eleven stanzas! *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* only includes five stanzas, with a rousing refrain. Stanley Osborne writes of this hymn: "The hymn has no room for weak resignation. It summons the mightiest and leaves them gazing upon a Love that gave its life to achieve life." American hymnologist Austin Lovelace says: "It is related to 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'For All the Saints' ELW 422 in its symbolism of marching in the ranks of soldiers of the crucified. It is the crucified Christ and his cross which we follow, and his love we proclaim to the world." The tune **CRUCIFER** was written by Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947) for this hymn text. **CRUCIFER** means "cross-bearer"

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW 803 is from the pen of English hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748), this hymn has been labeled by the nineteenth century theologian and literary critic Matthew Arnold as the greatest hymn in the English language. Watt's hymn is based on two sources from the writings of the Apostle Paul, the first, a verse from Galatians--"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world", and the second, a verse from the third chapter of Philippians--"Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ". Isaac Watt's intended this hymn for a communion service he wrote in 1707, with the original title "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ". American composer Lowell Mason (1792-1872) composed the tune **HAMBURG** in 1824, and takes it's name for that city in Germany. He states that he arranged this melody from a Gregorian chant, with only a range of five different pitches: E, F, G, A, B flat.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 2, John Wesley (1703-1791); Charles Wesley (1707-1788); renewers of the church

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline (or method) of frequent communion, fasting and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time, but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience during a Moravian meeting while listening to a reading of Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*, John "felt his heart strangely warmed." He went on to become perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth century Christian revival. The brothers' desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal within the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed independently. Charles wrote more than six hundred hymns, including "Hark! The herald angels sing" (ELW 270), "Christ whose glory fills the skies" (ELW 553), and "Love divine, all loves excelling" (ELW 631).

March 7, Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

In the year 202 the emperor Septimius Severus forbade conversions to Christianity. Perpetua, a noblewoman, Felicity, a slave, and other companions were all catechumens at Carthage in North Africa. They were imprisoned and sentenced to death. Perpetua's father, who was not a Christian, visited her in prison and begged her to lay aside her Christian convictions in order to spare her life and spare the family from scorn. Perpetua responded and told her father, "We know that we are not placed in our own power but in that of God."

St. Mark's Prayer List

James Watson, 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, 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 3/8/2026

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Birthdays

3/1 Elaine Hazen

3/1 Emory Taylor

3/4 Virginia Edahl

3/5 Cliff Edahl

3/7 Dawn Puky



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

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Our Ministers

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