



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MARCH 22, 2026

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In today's readings, the prophet Ezekiel prophesies of God breathing new life into dry bones, and Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. To those in exile, displaced by war, and living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. As Paul writes in Romans, "To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." Today's readings help us prepare for the journey of Holy Week to the cross and to anticipate the joy of the resurrection at Easter.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Aria" for organ, Op. 51

Flor Peeters

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

Processional Hymn

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" ELW 886

AZMON

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Music: Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.
3. The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
4. He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
5. Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!
6. To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

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.

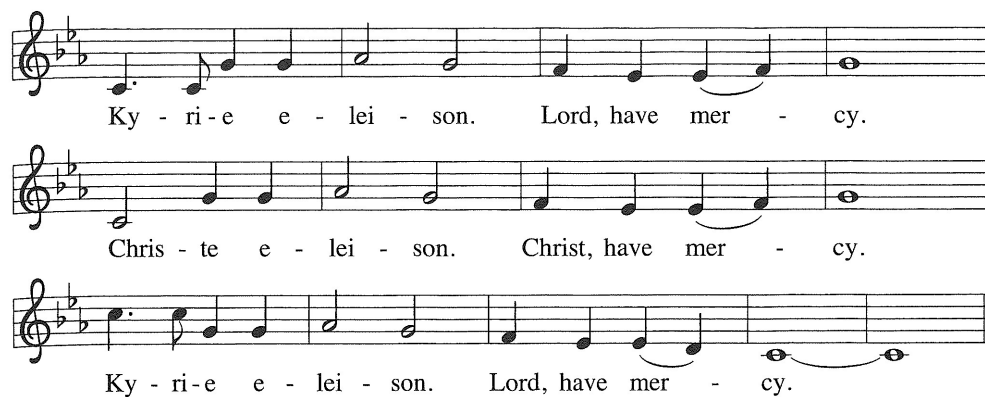
Silence is kept for reflection.

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

“Kyrie eleison, Lord Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



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

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. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Larry Lippert, lector

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 130

Jack Richardson, Nick Hanewinkel, cantors

Psalm 130:5 (Daniel Kallman) from *Psalter for Worship Year A*; © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope.

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; ²O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. ³If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand? ⁴Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared. R ⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope. ⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning. ⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plentiful redemption. ⁸For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins. R

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

Larry Lippert, lector

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the

mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 11:1-45**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” ²⁸ When

she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“The Spirit of God dwells in you”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” ELW 334 stanzas 1-3 & Lent 5

THOMAS

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

Lent 5
 God of all our fear and sorrow,
 God who lives beyond our death,
 hold us close through each tomorrow,
 love as near as ev'ry breath.

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

Charles Lakeman, 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.*

Gracious God, we pray for your church on earth. Bind us together as the body of Christ, serving, worshiping and glorifying you. We pray especially for this congregation, St. Mark's, that we may embody Christ here in Charlotte. We give you thanks for our leaders. Guide and inspire them as they discern how we might use the numerous blessings you have given us to be a beacon of hope in a despairing world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of Life, you have breathed eternal life into the cosmos, and each spring out of dead branches and fallow fields, you raise creation to new life. Bless us to see you alive in wilderness and farmland, in towns and cities, and lead us to care for all habitats and landscapes, so that people everywhere might live in peace with the abundance that comes only by your hand. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of Peace, daily, we see the misery and anguish of people suffering because of war, but so often, our comfort, wealth and security insulate us from their suffering. Bless aid workers and all who are at risk as they respond to humanitarian crises and give us courage to weather inconveniences that we may experience in our privilege while we support those whose lives have been shattered. Open our hearts, O God, and stir us to action to end these wars. Grant wisdom and perseverance to all who are working to end these tragedies and embolden us to call on our leaders to seek solutions that relieve suffering. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Comforter, we pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty, oppression and illness that weigh many down. Call us out of the many tombs that separate and wall us off from you and our neighbor. Heal the sick, free the addicted, comfort the grieving, and give hope to the dying. Strengthen and heal our loved ones, especially, James Watson, 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, 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Lord, in this season of Lent, as the shadows of the cross grow long, hear our voice. Each day, we face trials and temptations, but in your holy word we find our hope. More than watchmen wait for the morning, we look for your redeeming light to break through our darkness. Forgive our sins and help us to grow through our disciplines of prayer, fasting and generosity so we might live as your true disciples. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for all the saints who have fallen asleep and now rest in you. May they attain the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the holy mystery of the gospel, grant us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save us from death, and at the last, raise us up to attain the promised resurrection of Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Anthem

(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)
“Shepherd of Souls” Tune ST. AGNES by John B. Dykes
Setting for choir and organ by Cindy Johnston Favreau

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless your chosen pilgrim flock with manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock. We would not live by bread alone but by your word of grace, in strength of which we travel on to our abiding place. Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart; Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart. Lord, sup with us in love divine; your Body and your Blood; that living bread, that heav'nly wine, be our immortal food.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“I Am the Bread of Life” ELW 485 stanza one

I AM THE BREAD

Text & Music: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6 © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

Leader or All

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "1 'I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be - lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons." The first staff begins with a fermata over the first measure, and the lyrics "1" and "'I" are placed below the first two notes. The second staff has lyrics "come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -". The third staff has lyrics "lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to". The fourth staff has lyrics "me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons." The music is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties.

Refrain
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

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

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.

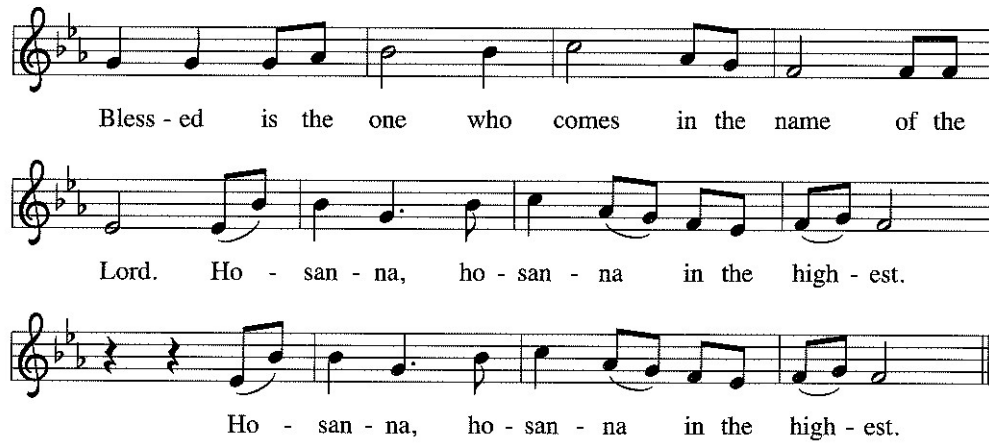
Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *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.

“Larghetto” from Variations on ‘Wondrous Love’ Southern Harmony tune
Setting for organ by Robert Lau

Communion Hymn

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower” ELW 614

HYMN OF PROMISE

Text: & Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1986 © Hope Publishing Co.

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the
2. There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing
3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our
seed, an ap - ple tree; in co - coons, a hid - den
word and mel - o - dy; there's a dawn in ev - 'ry
time, in - fin - i - ty; in our doubt there is be -
prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free! In the
dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and me. From the
liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty. In our
cold and snow of win - ter there's a
past will come the fu - ture; what it
death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the
spring that waits to be,
holds, a mys - ter - y, un - re - vealed un - til its
last, a vic - to - ry,
sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

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

“What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW 666 stanzas 1-3

WONDROUS LOVE

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt. Arr. 1955 Augsburg Publishing

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

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

“Allegro energico” from Variations on ‘Wondrous Love’

Robert Lau

✠

✠

✠

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Huang; prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: Charles

Lakeman; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Rod Stephens; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Susan Lakeman; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Rebecca Huang, Jay Jacob, Janice Miller; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators : Kevin Feezor, Janice Miller; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Nick Hanewinkel, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Charles Lakeman; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team B; greeters: Dawn Schwartz, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Bonnie Eckerd, Andrea Long, Virginia Molan, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators : Meg Fielding, Doug Milheim, Dianne Thomas

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

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Wednesday Supper, 6 pm-6:45 in the Fellowship Hall. **3/25 meal** provided by the Men's Group.
Lenten Midweek Prayer, 7 pm (in-person and online).
Make Lent a time of prayerful renewal.

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

Japanese Spring Festival: Saturday 3/28, 3 pm-6 pm



Scan me!

(Registration is required, but if you have not registered, please mention you are a member of St. Mark's for admission) The event is free.

Jack Richardson, Senior Recital: 3/29, 4 pm

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, 3/29 8:30 am and 10:30 am, Blessing of Palms and Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday, 4/2 7 pm, Service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar.


Good Friday, 4/3 7 pm Service of the Word and Procession of the Cross.

Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day 4/5 Services 8:30 am and 10:30 am, Holy Communion, St. Mark's Choir, Cantors, Brass Quintet, Timpani & Organ; 9:30 am Coffee & Goodies in Gathering Place; 9:45 am Easter Egg Hunt (church yard)

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. All are welcome to join us for this discussion. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

Peace Lily Orders, Sunburst Wreath and Lenten Box Donations Printed forms are in the Gathering Place. Lily orders must be placed by March 29th.

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: Lenten boxes are in the Gathering Place along with a letter noting that our donations will help support NAMI Charlotte (National Alliance on Mental Illness). We no longer accept coins but still accept bills or simply a check made out to St. Mark's. Donations can also be made online. Please return your boxes by Easter.

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 year. **2026** Pledge cards are 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 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

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW 886 is the last hymn in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (with only the seven national songs to follow). The great English hymn writer Charles Wesley (1707-1788) wrote over nine thousand hymns and poems, with this one being one of the ten included in our hymnal. Charles is the brother of John Wesley (1703-1791) the founder of Methodism. Charles wrote this hymn in 1739, on the anniversary of his conversion experience. It is possible he was influenced by Johann Mentzler (1658-1734), a Lutheran pastor, who penned "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" ELW 833, or his Moravian friend Peter Bohler (1712-1775) who said to Charles: "Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Him (Christ) with them all." Charles wrote eighteen stanzas for this hymn, but only six are included in our hymnal! The tune **AZMON** was arranged by Lowell Mason from a melody by Carl Glaser (1784-1829) and is named for a biblical place referenced in Numbers 34:4-5, and Joshua 15:4.

“What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW 666 This anonymous folk hymn is from nineteenth-century America and is paired with the *Southern Harmony* (1835) tune **WONDROUS LOVE**. This tune first appeared in the valleys of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and shows signs of Celtic influences. The earliest publication of the text was included in a Methodist book compiled by Stith Mead (1766-1834), *A General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs Now in Use* (Lynchburg, Virginia, 1811) where it had six stanzas. Each stanza presents a single thought, which is underscored by repetition. God's love is so great that he would give up his crown for a sinner's soul.

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” ELW 334 This Lenten hymn was written by American composer and musician Marty Haugen (b. 1950). Haugen is also the composer of *Holy Communion Setting Two* in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Haugen wrote this hymn about the tree of life, who also turns out to be Jesus the Christ. Following the first three stanzas and the general one, he writes "I added five additional stanzas to reflect the 'A' cycle readings for the Lenten season, in keeping with the Lutheran tradition that the congregation sings back the scripture they have heard in the sermon." The five stanzas for the five Sundays of Lent move from creation to blessing to the living water of salvation to shining gospel to beyond fear and sorrow. Haugen composed the tune **THOMAS** for this hymn and named for the middle name of his son.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 22, Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to the Americas (1703-1758)

Edwards was a minister in Connecticut and has been called the greatest of the New England Puritan preachers. One of Edward's most notable sermons is titled, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." However, in the rest of his works and preaching, Edwards had more to say about God's love than God's wrath. His personal experience of conversion came when he felt overwhelmed with a sense of God's majesty and grandeur, rather than by a fear of hell. Edwards served a Puritan congregation, where he believed that only those who had been fully converted ought to receive communion. His congregation, however, thought otherwise. Edwards left that congregation and carried out mission work among the Housatonic Native Americans of Massachusetts. He became president of the College of New Jersey, which later became Princeton University.

March 24, Óscar Arnulfo Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, martyr (1917-1980)

Romero is remembered for his advocacy on behalf of the poor in El Salvador. Though originally a social conservative, after being appointed Archbishop of San Salvador, he developed into an outspoken social activist on behalf of the poor and oppressed. He and other priests and church workers were considered traitors for their bold stand for justice, especially defending the rights of the poor. After several years of threats to his life, Romero was assassinated while celebrating the eucharist in the chapel of Hospital of Divine Providence. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 24 as the "International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims" citing, in particular, the work of Archbishop Romero.

March 25 Annunciation of Our Lord

Nine months before Christmas, the church celebrates the Annunciation. In Luke the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the Son of God, and she responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord!" Ancient scholars believed that March 25 was also the day in which creation began and was the date for Jesus' death on the cross. Thus, from the sixth to eighth centuries, March 25 was observed as New Year's Day in much of Christian Europe.

St. Mark's Prayer List

James Watson, 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, 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 3/29/2026 Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Matthew 21:1-11
(Procession with Palms)
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Birthdays

3/22 Mindy Curley
3/23 Deanna Weckerle
3/24 James Conner
3/24 Taylor Abbasi
3/24 Tom Puky
3/25 Madden Weckerle
3/26 Rob Johnson
3/28 Jackie Harms



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

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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