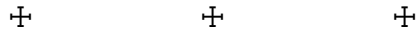




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MARCH 29, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

“Are you the king...?” The governor, the leaders, and the crowd wonder as they surround Jesus. From his arrival into Jerusalem on a humble donkey with palms waving, all the way to the Place of the Skull, where darkness covered the cross, where Jesus was crucified and the earth shook—somewhere between leaves of green and the curtain torn in two, the truth is revealed, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” May we follow our Lord and Savior on this pathway as we begin the observance of this Holy Week.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Meditation” (Air) from *English Suite for Handbells*

Michael Helman

The congregation stands as the cross is carried into the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday Gospel procession.

The Palm Sunday Acclamation

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Palm Sunday Processional Gospel **Matthew 21:1-11**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing of the Palms

The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Entrance Processional

“Highland Cathedral”

Traditional piping tune

Dave McKenzie, Scottish Highland Piper

Processional Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” ELW 344

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son,
now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*
2. The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *Refrain*
3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain*
4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*
5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

The presiding minister concludes the procession.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

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

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.

Please stand as able.

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.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Musical Interlude

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Tune HAMBURG by Lowell Mason
Setting for handbells by Lloyd Larson

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Charles Lakeman, lector

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 31:9-16

Madeline Phillips, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 31:5 (Mark Sedio) from *Psalter for Worship Year A*; © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.
¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed. ¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my acquaintances; when they see me in the street | they avoid me. ¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind; I am as useless as a | broken pot. R ¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life. ¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD. I have said, "You | are my God. ¹⁵My times are | in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me. ¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant; save me in your | steadfast love." R

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Charles Lakeman, lector

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became

obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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 Matthew 27:11-54

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 27th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³ Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and

mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”³⁰ They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him.³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

³⁸ Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”⁴⁴ The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.⁴⁶ And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.”⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Christ in All”

Pastor Alexandra Rode

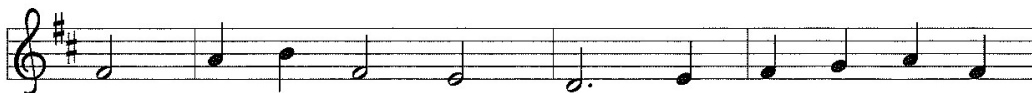
Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

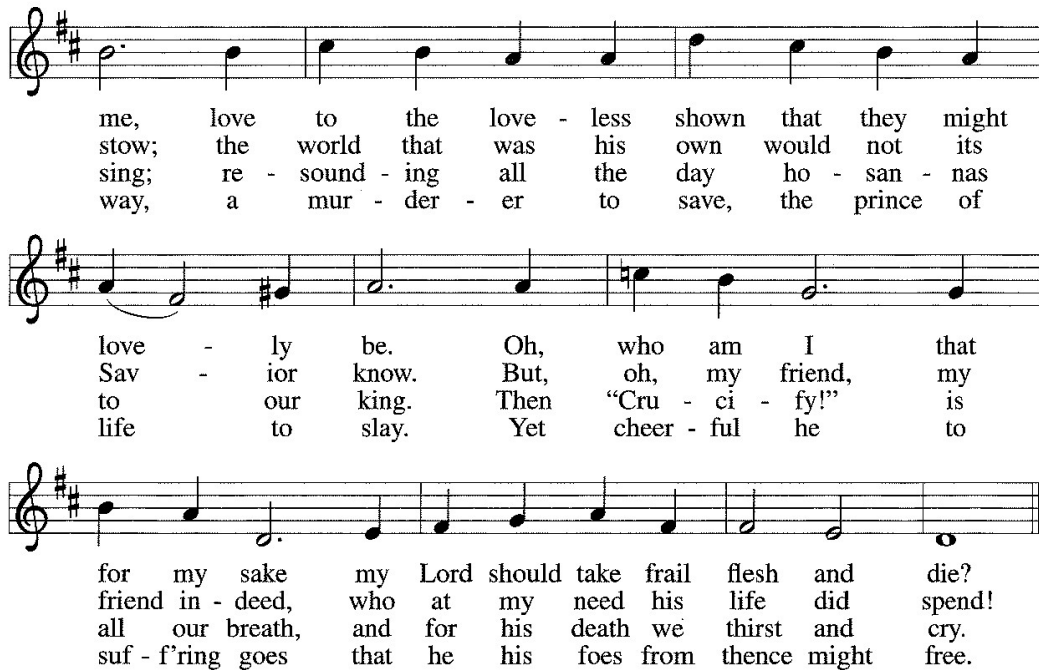
“My Song Is Love Unknown” ELW 343 Stanzas 1-4

LOVE UNKNOWN

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.. Music: John Ireland, 1879-1962, © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love-less shown that they might
 stow; the world that was his own would not its
 sing; re-sound-ing all the day ho-san-nas
 way, a mur-der-er to save, the prince of
 love-ly be. Oh, who am I that
 Sav-ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
 to our king. Then "Cru-ci-fy!" is
 life to slay. Yet cheer-ful he to
 for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 friend in-deed, who at my need his life did spend!
 all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
 suf-f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

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

Dave Dunlap, 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.*

Holy Father, your Son emptied himself, taking the form of a servant king, and his reign of peace begins as he comes humbly riding on a donkey. Bless your church always to incarnate his body as a servant church, humbly caring for and suffering with others in this world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our Creator, as we wave these palms today, we are reminded of the beauty of your creation. Help us to work to protect oceans, forests, and ice caps. Give us hearts to care for every creature, and help us to live lives that respect the world you have given us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of Peace, we ask that you be with our leaders —locally, nationally, and globally. Guide them to focus on what is truly fair. Help them see those who are often overlooked and those who are struggling the most. We ask for peace that isn't just a lack of conflict, and a real justice that comes only from you. Give leaders the wisdom to lead us through the challenges we are still facing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord Christ, grant healing and restoration to all people who suffer illness and those who know the approach of death; and we ask you to be with all who experience betrayal, denial, abuse and false accusations. Strengthen and heal our loved ones, especially, Bibba Whitener, 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, Bonnie & Danyne 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.

God of Life, we thank you for the people who keep our world going. We remember those who keep us safe, especially TSA agents, law enforcement, and first responders, and those who keep us healthy and support our recovery: the nurses, doctors, technicians and support staff in hospitals, clinics and offices. Their work is often invisible, but it's so important. Keep them safe, give them the energy they need to keep going, and let their families know they are seen and appreciated. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Lord, you have exalted Christ and given him the name above every name, bless us to confess his holy name with lives of humble service for others, so that every tongue might confess him as Lord to your eternal glory. 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.

MEAL

Please be seated.

OFFERING

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

Anthem

“Draw Nigh to Jerusalem”

David H. Williams

Draw nigh to thy Jerusalem, O Lord, thy faithful people cry with one accord: ride on in triumph; Lord, behold we lay our passions, lusts, and proud will in thy way! Thy road is ready; and thy paths, made straight, with longing expectation seem to wait the consecration of thy beauteous feet, and silently thy promised advent greet! Hosanna! Welcome to our hearts! for here thou hast a temple, too, as Zion dear; O enter in, dear Lord, unbar the door and in that temple dwell forevermore.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338 stanza 1 & 2 ST. CHRISTOPHER

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869; Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. Your 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

Holy Communion Setting Three

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

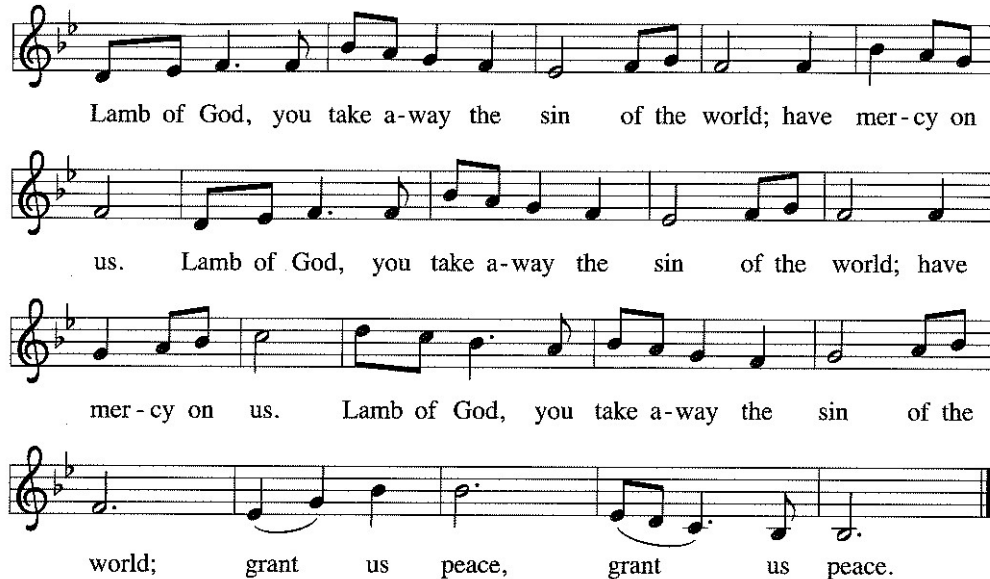
Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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 kits are no longer 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.

"Improvisation on 'Go to Dark Gethsemane'"

Tune GETHSEMANE by Richard Redhead

"Hosanna" for Double Chorus

Edward W. Leinbach

Setting for choir, solo quartet and organ by James Christian Pfohl

*Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is He that comes, in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

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

“Christ, the Life of All the Living” ELW 339

JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Chatherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

1. Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe;
through your suff'ring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.
thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
2. You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
3. Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you ever more;
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,
for the last triumphant cry, praise you ever more on high.

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

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Tune HYMN TO JOY by Ludwig van Beethoven

Dave McKenzie, Scottish Highland Piper

Closing Voluntary

“Improvisation for Palm Sunday”

Alexandre Guilmant

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Charles Lakeman; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Rod Stephens; greeters: Dawn Schwartz, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Bonnie Eckerd, Andrea Long, John Simon, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Janice Miller, Doug Milheim, Diane Thomas; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; St. Mark's Handbell Choir; Dave McKenzie, Scottish Highland Piper; Amy Woodall, Kate Suchanek, Jack Richardson, Madeline Phillips, Nick Matherly, cantors and solo vocal quartet; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Youth; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Marty Schwartz; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team C; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Tom & Kay Sehorn; communion assistants: Andrew & Tom Puky, John Simon, Chris Stevenson; communion helper: Catherine Metzge; tabulators: Charles Lakeman, Karen Feezor

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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,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Altar Flowers Today are given to the Glory of God and St. Mark's Communion Committee by Karen Covington.

Today: Jack Richardson, Senior Recital, 5:30 pm

Holy Week

4/2 Maundy Thursday, 7 pm (in-person and online),

Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar, Choir, Cantors, Cello & Organ

4/3 Good Friday, 7 pm (in-person and online),
Service of the Word &
Procession of the Cross.

4/5 Resurrection of Our Lord 8:30 am Holy Communion, Cantors, Piano; 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)

A Special Thank You to Linda Carter We extend our heartfelt thanks to our fearless Social Ministry leader and volunteer, Linda Carter. Linda has faithfully served in every role within the Social Ministry committee—President, Treasurer, and most recently, Secretary—leading with dedication, compassion, and tireless energy. She has been a strong advocate for the many ministries we support, including Nourish Up, Second Harvest, Crisis Assistance Ministries, and Pat's Place, to name just a few. Linda also coordinated Room in the Inn for many years and, over the past decade, has lovingly organized toiletries and pantry shelves for our neighbors in need. Her impact reaches far and wide—especially among women and children in our community. From writing thousands of bulletin announcements to giving countless hours in service, Linda's commitment has truly made a difference. As she prepares to move closer to her daughter, we send our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes. It will take many hands to fill Linda's shoes! Social Ministry is always welcoming new members—please consider joining us in continuing this important work.

Peace Lily Orders, Sunburst Wreath and Lenten Box Donations Printed forms are available in the Gathering Place. Order lilies by Wednesday morning, 4/1 to be included in the Easter bulletin.

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 Thank you to all for your donations. If you would like to help, please see 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 discussion. The class meets in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

Online worship is streamed live every Sunday at 10:30 am on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutheranchlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

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

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" ELW 344 has established its place as the traditional Palm Sunday processional hymn. It is based on the accounts of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem found in Matthew 21, and Luke 19, as well as portions of Psalms 24 and 118. This hymn was written by Bishop Theodulph of Orleans (c.760-821), a leading French theologian and poet of his time. We believe he may have written this hymn while imprisoned in the year 818, falsely accused for conspiring against King Louis the Pious. This is one of our oldest Latin hymns, and in original form included thirty-eight two line stanzas plus the refrain! John Mason Neale (1818-1866) translated eight stanzas from Latin into English, first published in 1851. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* prints his first five stanzas plus refrain. Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), a German pastor, cantor and teacher, wrote the tune **VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN** ("Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee") that we associate with this hymn.

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ELW 338 Elizabeth C. Clephane (1830-1869) is the author of this Lenten hymn. She was a member of the Free Church of Scotland and devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick in her community. She was nicknamed "Sunbeam" to reflect her sunny personality and philanthropic work among the disadvantaged. This hymn was written shortly before her death and is a meditation on the cross and its importance in the faith of the believer. The numerous scriptural allusions are indicative of the poet's thorough knowledge of the Bible. The tune **ST. CHRISTOPHER** was composed for Clephane's hymn by Frederick Charles Maker (1844-1927) an organist and conductor in Bristol, England. Clephane's hymns were popularized in the United States by Ira Sankey, who collected gospel hymns and was the musical assistant of the American evangelist Dwight Moody (1837-1899).

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 29, Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church (1771-1824)

Hans Nielsen Hauge was a Lutheran layperson who began preaching about "the living faith" in Norway and Denmark after a mystical experience that he believed called him to share the assurance of salvation to others. At the time, itinerant preaching and religious gatherings held without the supervision of a pastor were illegal, and Hauge was arrested several times. He also faced great personal suffering: his first wife died, and three of his four children died in infancy.

March 31, John Donne, poet (1572-1631)

This priest of the Church of England is commemorated for his poetry and spiritual writing. Most of his poetry was written before his ordination and is sacred and secular, intellectual and sensuous. He saw in his wife Anne, glimpses of the glory of God and human revelation of divine love. In 1615 he was ordained and seven years later he was named dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. By that time his reputation as a preacher was firmly in place. In his poem "Good Friday, 1613. Riding westward," he speaks of Jesus' death on the cross: "But by that Christ on his cross, did rise and fall, Sin had eternally benighted all. Yet dare I' almost be glad, I did not see that spectacle of too much weight for me. Who sees God's face, that is self life, must die; What a death were it then to see God die?"

April 4, Benedict the African, confessor, (1526-1589)

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict first lived as a hermit and labored as a plowman after he was freed. When the bishop of Rome ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a religious community, Benedict joined the Franciscans, where he served as a cook. Although he was illiterate, his fame as a confessor brought many visitors to the humble and holy cook, and he was eventually named superior of the community. A patron saint of African Americans, Benedict is remembered for his patience and understanding when confronted with racial prejudice.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Elizabeth (Bibba) Whitener, 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 & Bonnie 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 4/5/2026

Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

Birthdays

3/30 Evan Wenzel

3/30 Olivia Grant

3/30 Paula Connolly

4/4 Linda Wyatt



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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