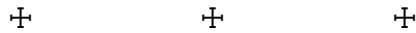




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MARCH 8, 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus promises the woman at the well the gift of an internal spring within her, “gushing up to eternal life”. When presented with this gift she says, “Sir, give me this water so I may never be thirsty...” Jesus promises us through life challenges that we can trust in the inward dwelling of the Spirit which gives us peace and satisfies our soul. May our worship together remind us of the eternal God who provides streams in the desert.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Serenade” for Cello and Piano, D. 957

Franz Schubert
John Brumbaugh, cellist

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

Processional Hymn

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” ELW 533

UNSER HERRSCHER

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

1. Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!
2. Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou, let it be thy temple now!
3. Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.
4. Thou my faith increase and quicken, let me keep thy gift divine;
how-so-e'er temptations thicken may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in all strife.
5. Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

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

“As the Deer”

AS THE DEER

Text and music by Martin J. Nystrom



As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af-ter you.



You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship you.



You a-lone are my strength, my shield, to you a-lone may my spir-it yield;



you a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I long to wor-ship you.

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. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

Meg Fielding, lector

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 95

Nick Matherly, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 95:1(May Schwartz) from *Psalter for Worship Year A*; © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



Let us shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation. ²Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms. ³For you, LORD, | are a great God, and a great ruler a- | bove all gods. ⁴In your hand are the caverns | of the earth; the heights of the hills are | also yours. ⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it, and your hands have molded | the dry land. ⁶Come, let us worship | and bow down, let us kneel before the | LORD our maker. R ⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of

God's hand. Ob, that today you would | hear God's voice!⁸ "Harden | not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert."⁹ There your ancestors | tested me, they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.¹⁰ Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying, "The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways."¹¹ Indeed I swore | in my anger, "They shall never come | to my rest."¹² R

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11

Meg Fielding, lector

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 4:5-30, 39-42

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing

up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.”²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“The Fountain Within”

Pastor Alexandra Rode

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“For All Faithful Women” ELW 419 stanzas, 1, 8, &2

KUORTANE

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007 © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Finnish folk tune.



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en who served in days of old.
 8 Recall the out - cast wom - an with whom our Lord conversed:
 2 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un - known.



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.
 Christ gave her liv - ing wa - ter to quench her deep - est thirst.
 in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone.



They served with strength and glad-ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.
 Like hers, our hearts are yearning; Christ of - fers us his word.
 we ot - ter glad thanks-giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise



To you their lives bore witness, pro-claimed your pow'r to save.
Then may our lips be burning to witness to our Lord.
that, faith-ful in your ser-vice, our lives may sing your praise.

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

Michael Thompson, 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.*

God of life, as we walk through our own deserts and hardships, quench our thirst with Your presence. Bring your church closer to You so we might lessen our burdens and quiet our fears. Show us how to renew Your spirit within us, and remind us that our best path forward is always through trust and faith in You. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy Creator, in parched places, in regions where displaced people thirst, and in areas where waters run dry, sustain the earth and its people. Grant to us living water in our hearts so that we might share our water and wells with others. As spring approaches, continue to water the earth as we anticipate another season of growth and harvest. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of joy, in a world of violence, anger, cynicism, and corruption, it's easy to allow our hearts to harden to those around us. Instead, help us choose compassion, humility, love, and worship, and remind us to seek Your voice above the noise of division and distraction that we face on a daily basis. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Abiding God, you sojourn with your people offering healing, hope, and endurance in times of illness, despair and affliction. Heal the sick, bless the dying, and strengthen all who care for them, pouring your love into their hearts. Bless and heal our church family with the water of life, 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, Danye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa & Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of grace, through Your Son Jesus Christ, You met a woman at a well and offered her living water. When struggle and conflict wear us down, bring that living water to us so that we might feel transformed and restored, ready to carry Your good news to neighbors and those in need of Your healing grace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord God, we have peace with you through our Lord Jesus Christ, and we are saved by his life-giving cross and resurrection. Lead us in times of challenge and thirst as you did Israel in the wilderness, and at the last, lead us to your kingdom where we may drink eternally from the fountain of the water of life. 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 "Wherefore, O Maker" David Ashley White

Wherefore, O Maker, we thy humble servants here bring before thee Christ thy well beloved, all perfect offering, sacrifice immortal, spotless oblation. See now thy children making intercession through him our Savior, Son of God incarnate, for all thy people, living and departed, pleading before thee.

Please stand as able.

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

"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty" ELW 777 stanza one BEACH SPRING

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN
Music: The Sacred harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
Refrain
Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

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.

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

Tune by Georg Neumark

Setting for cello and organ by David Cherwien

Communion Hymn

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” ELW 623

TOPLADY

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778; Music: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law’s demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

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

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” ELW 611

KINGSFOLD

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

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk till trav’ling days are done.

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 C Minor” BWV 549

Johann Sebastian Bach

✠ ✠ ✠

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Andrew Puky; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Rod Stephens; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Bonnie Eckerd, John Simon, Nick Wartner, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators : A.J. Pridgen, Karen Feezor; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir; John Brumbaugh, cello; Nick Matherly, Amy Woodall, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Youth; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Andrea Long; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team B; greeters: Millie Cansler, Dave & Eileen Dunlap; communion assistants: Kevin & Karen Feezor, A.J. Pridgen, Chris Stevenson; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators : Karen Feezor, Meg Fielding

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 in honor of my lovely wife Dawn Puky on her birthday by Tom Puky.

Lenten Schedule

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

3/11 meal provided by Finance Committee.

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

Peace Lily Orders, Sunburst Wreath and Lenten Box Donations Printed forms are in the Gathering Place. Lily orders must be placed no later than March 29th.

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 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.

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. Also, as in past years, we want to suggest that the individuals in this group be prepared to make a small personal financial contribution to support the men's group activities at this meeting. Envelopes will be provided.

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 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 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 5:30 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

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW 611 This hymn comes to us from the Scottish writer, pastor and editor Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). He wrote about six hundred hymns, and this one was published in 1846 with the title "The Voice from Galilee." The hymn centers on three of the sayings of Jesus found in John 1:16, Matthew 11:28, John 4:14, and John 8:12. The first half of each stanza gives Jesus' invitation, and the second half gives our response. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* pairs this hymn with two contrasting tunes, ELW 332, a tune by sixteenth century composer Thomas Tallis (1505-1585), and the one we sing today, ELW 611 to the English folk tune **KINGSFOLD**, named for the town in Surrey, England.

"Rock of Ages, Cleff for Me" ELW 623 Augustus M. Toplady (1740-1778) an Anglican priest and writer, published this hymn in 1776. He was a staunch Calvinist and a contemporary of John and Charles Wesley, with which he carried on an open feud over the role of free will in salvation. This hymn is his response to John Wesley's views. The metaphor "Rock of Ages" is found in Isaiah 26:4, Exodus 33:22, and I Corinthians 10:4. Austin Lovelace writes: "The theme is the gospel message that Jesus' suffering and death alone provide the way to salvation. The water and blood which gushed from his side provide life everlasting, just as the water from the rock provided physical life for Hebrews wandering in the desert." Thomas Hastings (1784-1872) wrote the tune **TOPLADY** for this hymn

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 10, Harriet Tubman (1822-1913); Sojourner Truth (c.1797-1883), renewers of society

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland and remained a slave until about age thirty when, fearing she would be sold and moved further south, she escaped with the help of the Underground Railroad. After that, she helped about three hundred others to escape until slavery was abolished. After the Civil War, her home in Auburn, New York, became a center for women's rights and served the aged and the poor. Sojourner Truth, too, was born a slave in New York state. Her birth name was Isabella Baumfree. After slavery was abolished in New York in 1827, she was freed and, while working as a housekeeper, became deeply involved in Christianity. A number of years later, she discerned a call to become a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving. In later life, she also became a popular speaker against slavery and an advocate for women's rights.

March 12, Gregory the Great (c.540-604), Bishop of Rome

Gregory was born the son of a Roman senator, and later became the prefect of the city of Rome. He sold his vast property and devoted the proceeds to the relief of the poor. He founded seven monasteries, six in Sicily and one in Rome. In 590 he was elected Bishop of Rome. Gregory's work was extensive. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. He established a school to train church musicians. Gregorian chant is named in his honor. He wrote a treatise underscoring what is required of a parish pastor serving a congregation. He also organized the distribution of grain during food shortages in Rome, and he sent missionaries to preach to the Anglo-Saxons who had invaded England.

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 3/15/2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Birthdays

3/9 John Danello

3/12 Lee George

3/13 Chuck Baynard

3/15 Cyndi Cox

3/14 Matt McCall



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

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Rev. Alexandra Joy Rode, Associate Pastor

for Family Ministry

pastorali@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

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Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

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Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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