



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



APRIL 12, 2026

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*This morning Christ appears to his disciples, giving them peace by breathing upon them and encouraging them, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." As a faithful response to Christ's Resurrection, may we prepare to be sent out as witnesses and messengers of His peace in our world.*

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"The Rejoicing" from *Royal Fireworks Music*  
Con brio—Moderato—Con moto

George Frideric Handel

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

Processional Hymn

"Thine Is the Glory" ELW 376

JUDAS MACCABAEUS

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939; Music: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

1. Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  
*Refrain:* Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
2. Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;  
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*
3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

*Please be seated.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

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

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you and given  
ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things we have done  
and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

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

### 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.*

### Kyrie

“Come and Fill Our Hearts” ELW 528 sing two times

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Text: Psalm136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community; Music Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994 © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin, GIA Publications, Inc.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Em C Em A D  
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### First Reading

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

Margaret Poplin, lector

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, <sup>22</sup> “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; <sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ <sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ <sup>32</sup> “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 16

Nick Matherly, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 16:11 (Mark Sedio) from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

In your pres - ence there is full - ness of joy.

*Protect me, O God, for I take ref - uge in you; I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a - bove all other.”  
2All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble a - mong the people. 3But those who run*

after | other gods shall have their troubles | multiplied. 4I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods, never take their names up- | on my lips. R 5O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup; it is you who up- | hold my lot. 6My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land; indeed, I have a | rich inheritance. 7I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night | after night. 8I have set the LORD at- | ways before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken. R 9My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices; my body also shall | rest in hope. 10For you will not abandon me | to the grave, nor let your holy one | see the pit. 11You will show me the | path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore. R

**Second Reading**

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

Margaret Poplin, lector

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as able.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

“The Strife Is O’er” ELW 366 stanza one

VICTORY

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Koln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909; Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823-1889

*Begin with refrain:*



1. The strife is o’er, the battle done; now is the victor’s triumph won! Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

**The Holy Gospel**

**John 20:19-31**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas,

“Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.<sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*“Sent with Peace”*

Pastor Alexandra Rode

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

“We Walk by Faith” ELW 635

SHANTI

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

1. We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: “My peace be with you here.”
2. We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, “My Lord and God!”
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:
4. For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:  
beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.
5. And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light  
may we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

**The Nicene Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Larry Dagenhart, Jr., prayer assistant

*The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.*

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

God of Creation, on this first Sunday after Easter, remind us to rejoice and be glad for Jesus' resurrection and deliverance from the grave. Continue to show us the way down the path of life. Ease our anxieties. Grant us patience and quiet. Help us to be still and know you are God. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord of life, your mercies are new every morning and in you there is fullness of joy. Open us to the wonders of your creation both the seen and the unseen, those realities we can touch and those that we can know only by faith. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Dear heavenly Father, bring peace to our broken world. We pray that you will inspire all those in any kind of power to work for good, aim for cooperation, and refrain from going to war to solve problems. We pray for healing for all who have suffered or experienced trauma. Grant every one of us guidance and discernment in seeking a loving way for humanity. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, come alongside of all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way; heal them with your grace and peace, and grant them, and all of us, a living hope in Jesus Christ. 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 & Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa & Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, help us to see the world through the eyes of Jesus. Lead us to love one another, to be kind to the stranger, to help others as we are able. Be with all those who are discouraged, angry, depressed, ashamed, or live without hope. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for the saints who were moved from doubt to faith, from despair to hope.

Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into the fullness of Christ's resurrection in your kingdom which has no end. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of the resurrection, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

**Peace** *(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)*  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*Please be seated.*

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

**Anthem** "The Whole Bright World Rejoices Now" David H. Williams

*The whole bright world rejoices now, Alleluia! The birds do sing on ev'ry bough, Alleluia! Then shout beneath the racing skies, Alleluia! To him who rose that we might rise, Alleluia! And all you living things make praise, Alleluia! He guideth you on all your ways, Alleluia! The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—Alleluia! Our God most high, our joy and boast. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Please stand as able.*

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

"Touch That Soothes and Heals" ACS 939 from *All Creation Sings* stanza one CIVILITY

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Gregg DeMey, b. 1972 © 2008 ReCreate Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that  
break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the  
wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:  
*Refrain*  
"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the  
grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as  
ones I died to save."

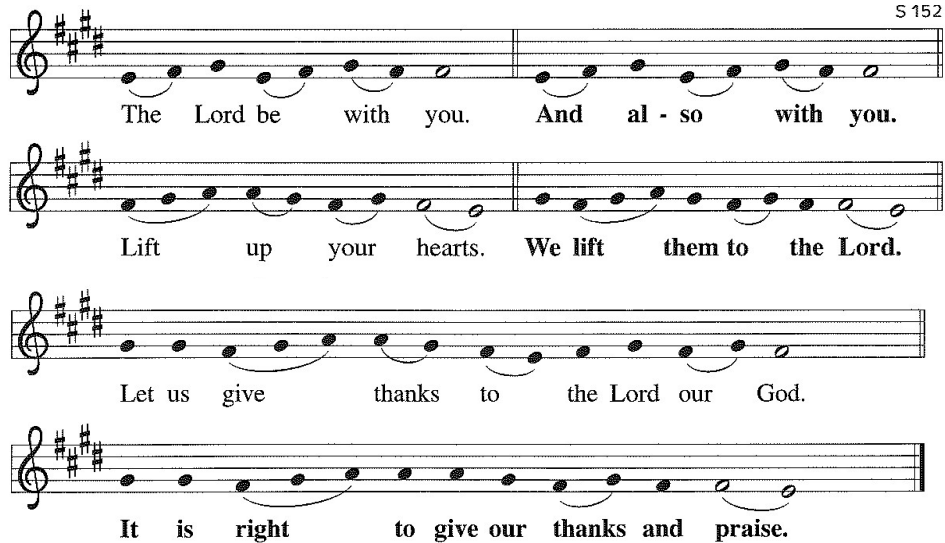
## Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

S 152



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.

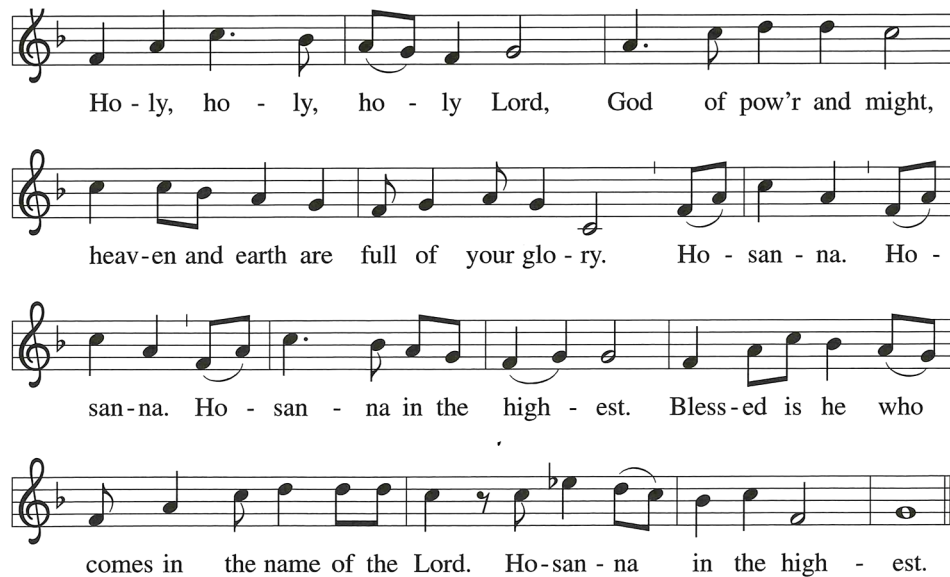
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

### Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

*Holy Communion Setting Three*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*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 Three*

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.

“Variations of “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright””

15th century tune PUER NOBIS; Organ settings by Michael Burkhardt

**Communion Hymn**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!” ELW 373

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Pierre de Corbeil, D. 1222, arr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
Arr. 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress



1 “Christ the Lord is ris’n to - day!” All on earth with an - gels say;  
2 Love’s re-deem-ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.  
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav’ns; and earth, re - ply.  
Lo! The sun’s e - clipse is o’er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.  
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

*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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

SENDING

**SENDING BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn**

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” ELW 384

PUER NOBIS

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

1. That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light when, to their loving eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!
2. O Jesus, king of gentleness, with constant love our hearts possess; to you our lips will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.

3. O Christ, you are the Lord of all in this our Easter festival,  
for you will be our strength and shield from ev'ry weapon death can wield.
4. All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, once dead, but now alive!  
To God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**Postlude**

“Improvisation—Toccata on “The Strife Is O’er””

Tune VICTORY by Giovanni de Palestrina

Organ setting by Alfred Fedak

+                      +                      +

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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant; Larry Dagenhart Jr.; crucifer/acolyte: needed; lector: Margaret Poplin; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, A.J. Pridgen; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir; Amy Woodall, Nick Matherly, cantors ; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Youth; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Diane Thornton; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team C; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Bonnie Eckerd, A.J. Pridgen, Tom Puky; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators: A.J. Pridgen, Dianne Thomas

**A Brighter Tomorrow**

**Sunday, April 26**

*Queen City*  
RINGERS  
IN CONCERT

**5:00 pm**

*Free! Donations welcome.*

### From the pastor -

"If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

Blessed Eastertide greetings! The joy we experience at Easter is profound because Christ is risen and alive in every heart open to him. In Holy Baptism we are raised with Christ to live into his resurrection life each and every day. Paul certainly experienced this, encouraging the church at Colossae to know that we are freed to seek and live for "the things that are above, where Christ is." The good news of Easter is powerful because daily we also live among the things that are "below" in this broken and sinful world. Yet because this is the world God so loves, Jesus died and was raised that he might raise us with him to seek the things that are above, moving us from death to life. Daily, may you be freed from sin and death to seek the things that are above. In doing so, you will be able to lift others with the strength of Christ alive in you.

In the grace and peace 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 in honor of our anniversary by Patrick and Lynda Walters.

**Our April Theology on Tap** will be Thursday, April 16 at 7 pm at the Carolina Beer Temple,

**The Ethnic Restaurant Group** will dine at Cajun Queen Restaurant 1800 E 7th St, 28204) at 6:00 PM on April 21st to experience Louisiana cuisine. Come early if you would like to linger with their full bar service. Download some zydeco music and start the experience on the way to the dinner. All are welcome! This is an open group. Become a first timer; try a "new flavor"; and then decide when and where to be part of an enjoyable dinner. RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by midnight on April 17th

**The St. Mark's Book Group** will meet on Thursday, April 23, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our study this month is *A Calamity of Souls* by David Baldacci. Set in southern Virginia in 1968, the story is a legal thriller about a racially charged murder case. It presents unusual circumstances where a Black man, Jerome Washington, is defended against a corrupt legal system by a white lawyer, Jack Lee, and a Black lawyer, Desiree DuBose. The novel explores themes of racism, injustice, and the Civil Rights era's aftermath, following the unlikely partnership of the two lawyers as they fight for justice in a deeply prejudiced South. All are welcome to join us in delving into this intriguing study. Contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

**4/26 Congregation BBQ Lunch following worship (10:30 service only).** Lunch is free. Please RSVP by (1) use the bulletin insert (2) use this link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-63389115-fellowship>), (3) email or call the church office. Let's finish the Renovation!

**4/26 Queen City Ringers Spring Concert** 5 pm "A Brighter Tomorrow"



**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 at 9:30 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.markslutherancharlotte234/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.

**Family Ministry Informational Session May 3rd**

**9:30am-** We will gather to review goals and timeline for Family Ministry thru the Fall, receive feedback and coordinate volunteer involvement. All parents & guardians, as well as other potential adult volunteers are welcome. We will gather in the nursery, so children are welcome to play while we join in conversation. At this time we will also facilitate scheduling training and screening for volunteers to comply with our Safe Gatherings policy.

**Stewardship**

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.

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**Social Ministry**

**NOURISH UP April Showers Bring Pantry Power!** Help our shelves bloom this month with:

- Canned meat – tuna, chicken, salmon
- Canned fruit (in juice or no sugar added)
- Low-sodium canned vegetables
- Pasta – canned or boxed
- Whole grain cereal

*(Pop top cans would be appreciated - no can opener needed)*

Your donations help our neighbors weather the storm.

**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

**“We Walk By Faith”** ELW 635 At first glance this hymn may appear to have been written in the twentieth or twenty-first century, however it comes to us from the pen of nineteenth century English writer and minister Henry Alford (1810-1871). In addition to being a parish priest, and eventually dean of Canterbury Cathedral, he was a Greek scholar, musician, painter, wrote eighteen hymns, and wrote or edited forty-eight books. This hymn was first published in *Psalms and Hymns* (London, 1844), and written for the commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle. He quotes from the account of Jesus and Thomas in John 20, but includes all of us, in our Emmaus walk and our meeting with our Risen Lord in water, bread and wine. Marty Haugen (b. 1950) American composer of liturgical music, wrote the tune we sing today. **SHANTI** is Sanskrit for "shalom" or "peace".

**“Thine Is the Glory”** ELW 376 This French Easter hymn was written by Edmond Budry (1854-1932) with its first publication in 1885. Budry was pastor for thirty-five years of the Free Church in Vevey, Switzerland. He begins this hymn with a line of praise to the risen Christ, then repeated after each stanza in the refrain. It tells of angels who rolled the stone away, alludes to Jesus' encounter with the women at the tomb, and refers to the doubting of Thomas. The tune **JUDAS MACCABAEUS** is by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) and is from his oratorio *Judas Maccabeus*.

**“Touch That Soothes and Heals”** ACS 939 *All Creation Sings* (2020). This hymn comes to us from the pen of American hymn writer Mary Louise Bringle (b.1953) a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, and a Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College, Brevard, NC. Bringle writes that this hymn "was inspired by a sermon from my former pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Blair. Tom was preaching on the resurrection appearance in Luke 24, in which Jesus reassures the disciples by saying 'See by my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.' Of course Jesus is referring to the marks of the crucifixion that remain on his body. But Tom used the words to muse about his own father's work-worn hands and feet, about distinctive marks--calluses, scratches, etc. left by the work we do. This led me to create my own list of things done by hands and feet that might leave a mark: if not literally on the actor, then perhaps symbolically on the acted upon. Hence, the hands that break bread, beckon children, bind wounds...and the feet that walk beside the weary, or rush to share good tidings." The composer of the tune **CIVILITY** is Gregg DeMey (b. 1972) a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church of North America. In the composer's words, "it is an original Celtic tune inspired by the composer's connection between the north coast of Ireland and the wild shores of Lake Michigan."

## 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, Danye & 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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

### Readings for 4/19/2026

#### Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

### Birthdays

4/12 Ken Hazen

4/14 John Brumbaugh

4/15 Nancy Deal

4/16 Drew Basinger

4/16 Betty Kendrick

4/16 Meg Johnson

4/16 Jennifer Dagenhart

4/16 Sandy Rach



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](mailto: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](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Rev. Alexandra Joy Rode**

[pastorali@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastorali@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Lester Ackerman,**

**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**

[les@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:les@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**

[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator**

[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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