



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



APRIL 19, 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*In today's gospel two disciples are joined by a stranger as they walk to Emmaus. The stranger listens to them, encouraging them with God's word by opening their minds and kindling faith in their hearts. The disciples said "Stay with us" to the stranger, and as they gathered around the table, the stranger took bread, blessed and broke it, and their eyes were opened as they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. May your hearts burn within you as he dwells in you and may you see him today in the bread and the cup given for you.*

GATHERING

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

**Prelude**

"Prelude" from *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major* BWV 1007

Johann Sebastian Bach; Guy Fishman, cello

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

**Processional Hymn**

"With High Delight Let Us Unite" ELW 368

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536-1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976, alt. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House; Music: Medieval European tune

1. With high delight let us unite in songs of great jubilation.  
You pure in heart, all bear your part, sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.  
To set us free forever, he is ris'n and sends to all earth's ends  
good new to save ev'ry nation.
2. True God, he first from death has burst forth into life, all subduing.  
His enemy now vanquished see; his death has been death's undoing.  
"And yours shall be like victory o'er death and grave," says he who gave  
his life for us, life renewing.
3. Let praises ring; give thanks, and bring to Christ our Lord adoration.  
His honor speed by word and deed to ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.  
So shall his love give us above, from misery and death set free,  
all joy and full consolation.

*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.

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. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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, 36-41**

Diane Thornton, lector

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, <sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” <sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Nick Matherly, Nick Hanewinkel, cantors

Psalm 116:13 (Mark Sedio) from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice, and listened to my | supplication, <sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given | ear to me whenever I called. <sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me; I came to | grief and sorrow. <sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name | of the LORD: O LORD, I pray you, | save my life." R <sup>12</sup>How shall I re - | pay the LORD for all the good things God has | done for me? <sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup | of salvation and call on the name | of the LORD. <sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD in the presence of | all God's people. <sup>15</sup>Precious in your | sight, O LORD, is the death | of your servants. <sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I | am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds. <sup>17</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving and call upon the name | of the LORD. R <sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD in the presence of | all God's people, <sup>19</sup>in the courts of | the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah! R

**Second Reading****1 Peter 1:17-23**

Diane Thornton, lector

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. <sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

*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****Luke 24:13-35***The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

<sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly,

saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*“Stay with us”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

“Day of Arising” ELW 374

RAABE

Text: Susan Palo Chervien, b. 1953© 1996, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929, © 1999 Augsburg Fortress



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,  
 2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,  
 3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.  
 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.  
 blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,  
 This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:  
 bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,  
 yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing  
 when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,  
 Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
 our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
 there Christ is with us in bread and wine.  
 that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

**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**

Pastor McKenzie, prayers

*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.*

Living Savior, just as you walked with the disciples and opened their eyes in the breaking of the bread, accompany your church in every place amid our questions, doubts, and fears; and gather us at your table, opening our eyes that we might see you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, you open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Bless fields as they are prepared for a new season of planting so that from a bountiful harvest all people might be fed from your abundance, and help us daily to be mindful stewards of the world you have given to us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of Love, you are the source of all truth and justice. Where earthly leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance; where there is corruption, bring integrity; and where there is hatred and violence, sow mutual understanding and peace. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope and peace to a suffering world. Grant healing to the sick, strength to the weary, courage to the despairing, and hope to the dying. 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.**

Gracious God, you bring us to new birth through the water of Holy Baptism. Daily help us to live in the covenant of baptism, that adopted as your beloved children, we might love one another from the heart and thereby build one another up to love and serve you all our days. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, what shall we return to you for all your goodness to us? Grant us believing and loving hearts so that we might imitate our Lord Jesus Christ through lives of faithful and steadfast love for you and all people, and when our work is done, bring us at the last into your eternal kingdom. 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** "Christ Triumphant! Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem"  
Tune ST. FULBERT by Henry Gauntlett;  
Setting for choir and organ by Richard Warner

*Ye choirs of new Jerusalem, your sweetest notes employ, the Paschal victory to hymn in strains of holy joy. Jesus, our Hope, our heart's Desire, Thy work of grace we sing; Redeemer of the world art Thou, its Maker and its King. Triumphant in his glory now to him all pow'r is giv'n; to him in one communion bow all saints in earth and heav'n.*

*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 Re:Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources



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

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.

“Sarabande” from *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major*

J. S. Bach  
Guy Fishman, cello

## Communion Hymn

“Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus” ELW 501

WERDE MUNTER

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891; Music: Johann Schop, 1600-1665; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.  
And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!  
Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;  
but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

*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**

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!” ELW 377

EARTH AND ALL STARS

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

1. Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

*Refrain:* Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2. Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open eyes;  
breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

*Refrain*

3. Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.

*Refrain*

4. Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

*Refrain*

5. City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!

*Refrain*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Postlude**

“Gigue” from *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major*

J. S. Bach

✠

✠

✠

This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Huang; lector: Diane Thornton; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Guy Fishman, cello; Nick Hanewinkel, Nick Matherly, cantors ; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Mike Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team C; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Jay Jacob, Andrea Long, Janice Miller; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Doug Milheim, Dawn Schwartz

---

## *Parish News*

---

### **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**

**Guest Musician** We welcome to our chancel this morning cellist Guy Fishman. Guy is one of the artistic directors of Bach Charlotte. St. Mark's will be hosting a number of their upcoming performances during their Spring Festival May 28th-June 7th, including a solo organ recital by Les Ackerman Sunday, June 7th 3:00pm in our sanctuary. In addition to his artistic duties with Bach Charlotte and a career as a cello soloist, Guy is principal cellist of the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston.

**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.

**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.

**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.

#### **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

**"With High Delight Let Us Unite"** ELW 368 This hymn by Georg Vetter (1536-1599) was first published in 1566 and included in *Kirchengeseng*, a Bohemian Brethren (later known as Moravian Brethren) hymnbook. Martin H. Franzmann (1907-1976) translated the hymn into English, with first publication in our Lutheran resources in *Worship Supplement* (1969). Vetter was a Bohemian Brethren pastor, who playing a leading role in the translation of the Bible for the Czech region, which was comparable to Martin Luther's translation for German speaking people. Paul Westermeyer writes of this hymn: "This is a joyous Easter hymn. it gives expression to the explosive song spawned by the freedom from and death of death obtained by Christ's death and resurrection". **MIT FREUDEN ZART** is a medieval Bohemian Brethren tune.

**"Day of Arising"** ELW 374 This hymn was written by American hymn writer Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021), former wife of composer/organist David Cherwien. The text was commissioned in 1996 for an annual assembly of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. The text is based on Luke 24:13-35, the meeting with the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. The tune **RAABE** is named for William and Nancy Raabe, who commissioned it from composer Carl Schalk (1929-2021) a former professor of church music at Concordia University in Chicago .

**"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."

## *This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar*

### **April 21, Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury (1033/4-1109)**

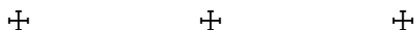
Anselm was the most luminous and penetrating intellect between Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. He is counted among the medieval mystics who emphasized the maternal aspects of God. Of Jesus Anselm says, "In sickness you nurse us with pure milk you feed us." His work *Cur Deus Homo* (Why God Became Human) was the most considerable contribution to the Theology of Atonement in the Medieval period. Anselm argued that human rebellion against God demanded a payment, but because humanity is fallen it was incapable of making that "satisfaction." However, in Christ, God took on human nature to make the perfect payment for humanity's sin.

### **April 23, Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society (1888-1960)**

Orphaned early, Toyohiko Kagawa was disowned by his extended family when he became a Christian. As a student he met Canon Samuel Barnett, founder of Toynbee Hall (1884) in the slums of east London, who had traveled to Japan. On Christmas Eve, 1909, in imitation of Barnett, Kagawa moved from his seminary dorm into the slums of Shinkawa in Kobe, living and working among the poor. He studied at Princeton University (1914-1917), and was one of the first to analyze reasons for poverty in early industrial Japan. Influenced by the Franciscans and the Jesuits, he established a "Friends of Jesus" society. He published and traveled widely, and was arrested multiple times in Japan's overseas colonies for apologizing for Japan's aggression and colonial rule. His theology centers on the "redemptive love" (贖罪愛) of Jesus Christ, in whom God suffers with humanity.

## April 25, Mark, evangelist

Though Mark was not an Apostle, it is likely that he was a member of one of the early Christian communities. It is possible that he is the John Mark of Acts 12 whose mother owned the house where the disciples gathered. The gospel attributed to him is brief and direct. Tradition has it that Mark went to preach in Alexandria, Egypt, became the first bishop there, and was martyred. The winged lion is his symbol, and also a symbol of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.



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

### Readings for 4/26/2026

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

### Birthdays

4/20 Ann Conner

4/21 Mary Timm

4/23 Layton Campbell

4/23 Shelley Ferner

4/24 Emily Ritchie

4/25 Riley Smith



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))



## 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 Wadgyman, Parish Administrator  
[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)  
Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator  
[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)