



## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*

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APRIL 2, 2026

MAUNDY THURSDAY

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

7:00 PM

*This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, and the new covenant of forgiveness he establishes through this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he also gives a new commandment to love one another. Through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received to carry Christ's forgiveness into the world through loving service for others. Tonight's Stripping of the Altar prepares us for Christ's suffering and death on the cross of Good Friday. Departing worship in solemn silence, we begin our journey to his cross.*

### GATHERING

*Offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.  
The congregation is invited to join in the **BOLD** responses.*

#### Prelude

“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Tune by Johann Cruger; Setting for cello and organ by Raymond H. Haan  
John Brumbaugh, cellist

#### Processional Hymn

“God Loved the World” ELW 323

ROCKINGHAM OLD

\*Text: Gesangbuch, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt. Music: Edward Miller, 1731-1807, adapt.

1. God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save,  
that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.
2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;  
all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.
3. If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.
4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done,  
and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.
5. All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

#### Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The presiding minister invites the assembly into the confession. Please stand.*

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called in baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of

reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

*All kneel or sit and keep silence for reflection and self-examination.  
The presiding minister leads the assembly in the confession.*

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.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

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

### Kyrie

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

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

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### First Reading

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Andrea Long, lector

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Amy Woodall, Kate Suchanek, cantors

Psalm 116:13 (Robert A. Hobby) Refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B*, 2008 © Augsburg Fortress



I will lift the cup of sal-va-tion and call on the name of the LORD.

*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>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. R <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. <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. R*

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Andrea Long, lector

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### 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.

*Please stand as able.*

**The Holy Gospel                      John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

*The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. <sup>34</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily**

*"If you have love for one another"*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

**Hymn of the Day**

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" ELW 359

TWENTY-FOURTH

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.
3. Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined, in him we are made one.
4. Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.
5. Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; © 1960 World Library Publication; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.; Music: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1761-1842

*Please stand.*

**Apostles' Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Pastor McKenzie, prayers

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

Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Lord Jesus, you have given yourself as an example of self-emptying love in service to others. In a world of selfish and self-centered power, strengthen and guide your church throughout the world to selflessly love others as you have loved us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray for daily bread and you give us your body in the bread of the Eucharist. Bless all who harvest the grain of the soil and fruit of the vine, and help us to work in the sustaining of fields, gardens, and wild places, so that all people are fed and life flourishes throughout the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you gave all who would follow you a new command of love. Guide all leaders in positions of public trust to govern by your principle of love so that they would pray for enemies, work for peace and an end to war, establish justice with equity for all, and act with compassion that lifts the weak. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you suffered betrayal, abandonment, and death. Grant healing, comfort, and hope to all who face sickness, addiction, loneliness, and death, and strengthen all who care for the sick and dying in clinics, hospitals, and hospice care. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for the grace of the Eucharist and the power of your commandment to love one another. Bless the work of this congregation to always know the saving grace of Christ truly present in the Holy Supper, that fed and forgiven, we might love others as you have loved us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you bring new life out of disappointment and death. Grant us grace that consoles and encourages, so that we also might follow Jesus Christ into life eternal with you, and at the last, gather us with the great cloud of witnesses at your heavenly banquet that has no end. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
**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.**

## OFFERING

*(Offerings may be placed in the plate at the sanctuary entrance)*

### Offertory Anthem

*(The offering may be brought forward from the Narthex)*

“A New Commandment”

Malcolm Archer

*Love one another as I have loved you. A new commandment I give you now that you love one another as I have loved you. By this will all people know you are my friends if you love one another as I loved you. The love I give you the world will receive if you love one another as I loved you. Love one another as I have loved you.*

### Offertory

“What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW 666

WONDROUS LOVE

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

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

### 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.

*Please stand.*

## MEAL

### Holy Communion

#### The Great Thanksgiving *(spoken)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

#### Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

You rescued your covenant people,  
led them on all their journeys, and taught them  
by the prophets. You so loved the world that  
you gave your only Son, so that  
everyone who believes in him may not  
perish but have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,  
and make us one in this community of faith  
and with your people throughout the world.  
Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life,  
Word made flesh, Power of the Most High,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

### 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 by intinction continuously in front of the Lord's table. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are always 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.

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

WONDROUS LOVE

Southern Harmony Tune; Setting for cello and organ by Raymond H. Haan

"Ave Verum" K. 618 (sung in Latin)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, who has truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mortals, whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood: be for us a foretaste (of heaven) during our final examining. O Jesu sweet, O Jesu pure, O Jesu, Son of Mary, have mercy upon me. Amen.*

*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. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

*The service concludes with the stripping of the altars. The sanctuary is dimmed and the congregation remains seated, or may kneel. The sacramental elements and vessels, linens and paraments are removed from the worship space, and the crosses veiled.*

### **Music**

“Father if This Cup Cannot Pass”

James Biery

Choir, organ and cello

*Father, if this cup cannot pass, but I must drink of it, let your will be done. 1. If you but trust in God to guide you, with steadfast hope through all your ways, God will give strength when pain surrounds you, and bear you through the darkest days. Who trust in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that none can move. 2. What can you gain from fear and anguish, when terror builds to dep'rate sigh? What can it help, to moan and languish over dark moments as they fly? Our tribulations only press the heavier for such bitterness. 3. God knows our need for joy and laughter, they will be ours in God's own time; then we will bask in love thereafter, and sing glad praise through days sublime. God's presence finds you unaware, surrounding you with loving care.*

After the crosses are veiled, the congregation departs in silence.

If you are worshipping online, you are encouraged to close your computer/device,  
and spend a few moments in silent reflection.

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; lector: Andrea Long; sound system: Neil Dixon; video streaming: A. J. Pridgen; Stripping of the Altar, Veiling of the Crosses: Kevin Feezor, Jim & Catherine Metze, John Simon, Pastor McKenzie, Pastor Rode; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; John Brumbaugh, cellist; Kate Suchanek, Amy Woodall, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

### **Holy Week and Easter Schedule:**

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

### **Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Day, April 5**

8:30 am Contemporary, Cantors, Piano  
10:30 Traditional (10:30 online also), St. Mark's Choir,  
Cantors, Brass Quintet, Timpani, Organ  
Coffee & Goodies 9:30-10:15; Easter Egg Hunt 9:45-10

**The church office** will be closed Easter Monday, April 6.

**Lenten boxes for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and Sunburst Flower donations:** Please bring your Lenten boxes and donations for the Sunburst any time this week.

## 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 feel free to email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests

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



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**

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