



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



APRIL 26, 2026

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lives raised to shepherd us into abundant life in him. He leads us to green pastures and restores us in the waters of Baptism. In the Eucharist, he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. He lives that you might have life and have it abundantly.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Triste” from *Bassoon Sonata in F minor*, TWV 41

Georg Philipp Telemann
A.J. Neubert, bassoon

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

Processional Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!” ELW 385

GELOBT SEI GOTT

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt. © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Music: Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

Lisa Barnette, lector

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

Nick Matherly, Taylor McNamara, cantors

Psalm 23:1 (Mark Shepperd) from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



The LORD | is my shepherd; I shall not | be in want. ²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures and leads me be- | side still waters. ³You restore my | soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake. ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹⁹For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”

from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

John 10:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Follow his voice”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

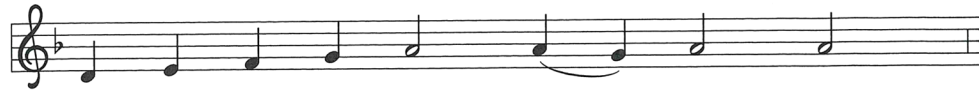
“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” ACS 954

PICARDY

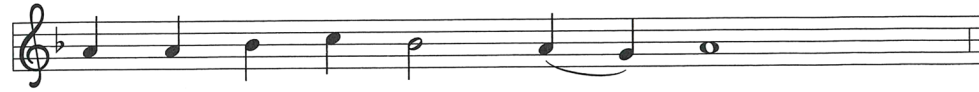
Text: Susan Palo Chervien, b. 1953© 1996, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929, © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!

You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



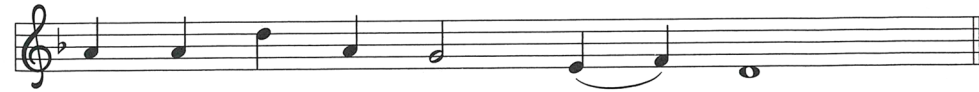
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

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

Mike Doyne, 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 all things, we confess that we are sinners who come before you acknowledging our failings and sinfulness. We seek the forgiveness of both you and your Son. Guide us, as individuals and as your body the church, to be more thoughtful, caring, understanding and loving as we attempt to live lives acceptable in your sight. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, continue to lead us to green pastures, restore us beside still waters, and make us mindful stewards of your abundant creation so that we, and all people, might revere and protect this world, loving one another and praising you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of love and life, the nations of this world seem to be intent upon tearing apart the beautiful world you have given to us. Guide all of us to show patience, love and respect for one another. Give us the ability to truly listen to others, to engage in constructive communication, and to build mutual understanding. Lead our conversations such that we can live and share your peace in an inclusive way. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, walk with all who grieve and mourn, anoint and heal the sick, and give hope to the anxious and fearful. Restore and uplift our loved ones, especially, Steve Gore, 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, 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.

Good and gracious God, this morning St. Mark's is considering a project intended to improve your house so that we may better serve you. Guide us so this renewal enhances our ministry and mission, serves our members, our neighbors and the Charlotte community as a whole. Please open our hearts to the new things you are seeking to do among us. 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

“Good Shepherd”

Gwyneth Walker

The King of Love my shepherd is whose goodness fails me never. I nothing lack, since I am His, and He is mine forever. God before me. God beside me. God behind me. God above me. Where streams of living waters flow, my troubled soul is healing. And quietly the pastures grow the voice of God revealing. In darkest hours I fear no ill, with my dear Lord beside me. Your strength and mercy comfort still, Your hand is there to guide me. And so through all the length of days we ne'er shall grow apart. Good Shepherd, I will sing Your praise for living in my heart. O King of Love! O Prince of Peace! O Child of Hope! Good Shepherd, I will sing Your praise for living in my heart.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need” ELW 782 stanza one

RESIGNATION

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt., based on Psalm 23; Music, North American traditional

1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly is your name.
In pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.
You bring my wan-d'ring spir-it back when I for-sake your ways,
and lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

Offering Prayer

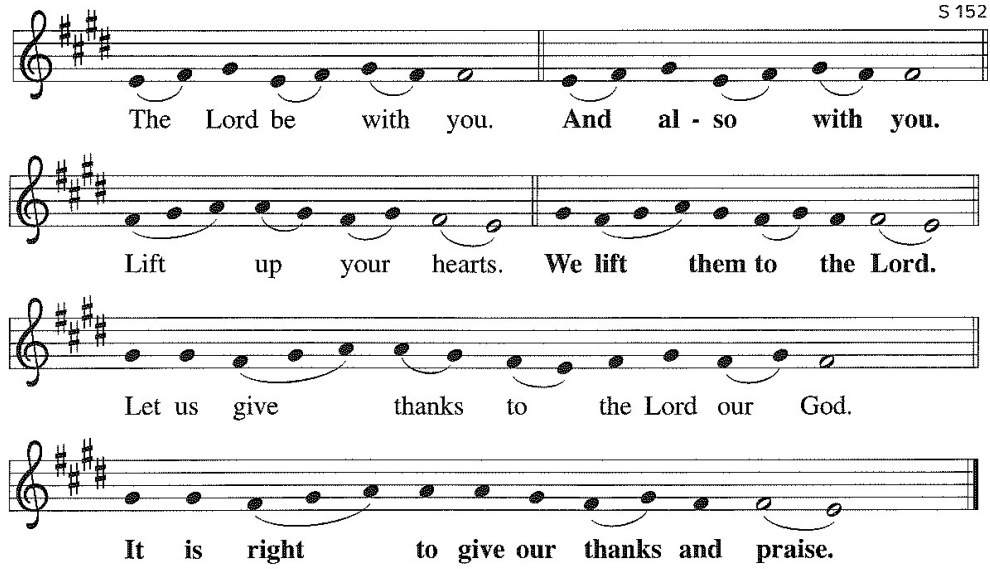
Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and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

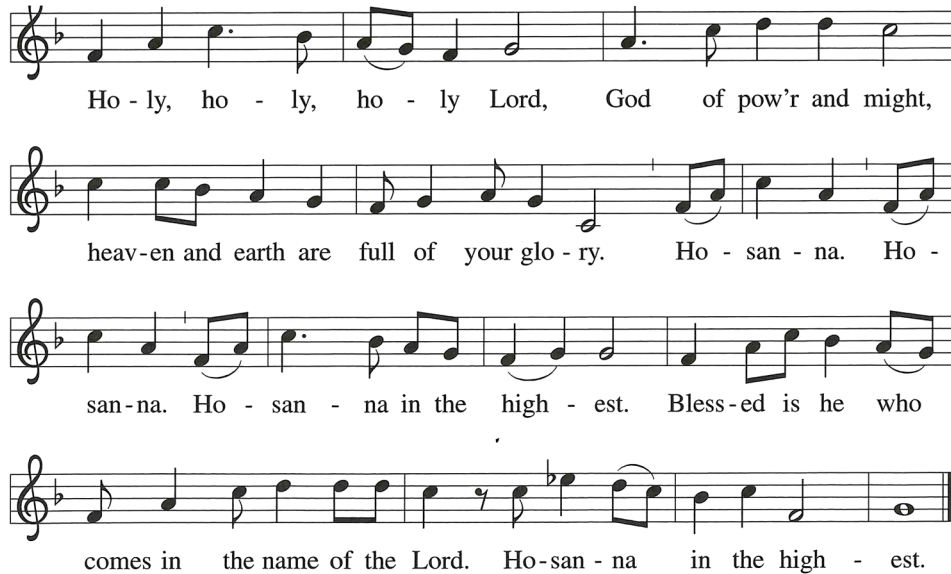
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

"Sarabande" from *Partita in A Minor*, BWV 1013

J. S. Bach
A.J. Neubert, bassoon

Communion Hymn

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” ELW 484

BICENTENNIAL

Taylor McNamara, Kate Suchanek, Madeline Phillips, cantors

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997; Music: Robert E. Kreuz, 1922-1996 T&M © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

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

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us!” ELW 789

BRADBURY

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1. Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
2. We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
3. You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be:
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

4. Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Worship has ended. You are free to depart or you may remain for the postlude.

Postlude

“Bourre Anglaise” from *Partita in A Minor*, BWV 1013

J. S. Bach



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant: Mike Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Jay Jacob, Andrea Long, Janice Miller; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Doug Milheim, Dawn Schwartz; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; A.J. Neubert, bassoon; Taylor McNamara, Nick Matherly, Kate Suchanek, Madeline Phillips, cantors ; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: TBD; ushers: Team C; greeters: Millie Cansler, Dave & Eileen Dunlap; communion assistants: Virginia Molan, A.J. Pridgen, Andrew & Tom Puky; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators: Doug Milheim, Susan League

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 in honor of Ella Puky on her 15th Birthday.

Today: Fellowship Hall Fundraiser Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch is free. All are welcome. Please consider making a pledge to the Fellowship Hall renovation.

Today: Queen City Ringers Spring Concert: 5 pm, "A Brighter Day." Admission is free. All are Welcome.

St. Mark's Men's Group Annual Breakfast 5/9 Look for the sign up link coming soon!

If you signed up for a Peace Lily, please take your lily home.



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

Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. **2026** Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



2026 Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

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

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" ELW 789 gives us images for both Psalm 23 and the parable of the good shepherd in John 10. The hymn was used as a children's song in the mid-1800's and first appeared in the collection *Hymns for the Young* (London, 1836) compiled by Dorothy Thrupp (1779-1847), but we don't know for certain she is the author, as she wrote anonymously or under pseudonyms. William Bradbury (1816-1868) American composer, conductor and the founder of his own music publishing company as well as the Bradbury Piano Company, wrote over eight hundred tunes including **BRADBURY** for this hymn. It was published in his Sunday school book entitled *Oriola* (1859). Three additional tunes by Bradbury are included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including "Just As I Am, without One Plea" ELW 592. "Jesus Loves Me!" ELW 595, and "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 596.

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" ACS 954 from *All Creation Sings* Susan Dunstan (1955-1993) was ordained in the United Church of Canada and has served as a pastor and as a duty chaplain in a maximum-security jail. Dunstan says she wrote this hymn in 1984 while commuting on a bus after a particularly bad day at the jail. It was later published in *In Search of Hope & Grace* under the title "Christus Paradox." *All Creation Sings* pairs Dunstan's text with the seventeenth century French folk tune **PICARDY**, named for that region of France.

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" ELW 385 Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955) an Anglican priest, author, former headmaster of Eton, and from 1921 chaplain to the king of England, wrote this hymn for the tune **GELOBT SEI GOTT**, and it was included in the famous publication *Songs of Praise* (London, 1931). It appeared there as "Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing" and can be mistaken for the Christmas hymn ELW 288 that begins with the same first four words. Both hymns were made inclusive with the word "friends" in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Alington was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine dated June 29, 1931, and called him "an accomplished classicist, a witty writer especially of light verse, and a priest of orthodox convictions." The American hymnologist Austin Lovelace writes: "Few new hymns for the season of Easter succeed, but lines such as 'the life laid down, and life restored' help to remind us of the eternal freshness of the Easter message"

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

April 29, Catherine of Siena, theologian (1347-1380)

Catherine of Siena joined the "Mantellate" serving as a tertiary of the Dominican Order (a lay sister). She was a mystic, scholastic philosopher, and a theologian. She worked to bring the papacy of Gregory XI back to Rome from its exile in Avignon, France, and was sent as an ambassador to negotiate peace among warring Italian city-states. Her letter to Pope Urban VI is well-known for encouraging the pope to reform the church with compassion and love. In 1970 she was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI. Thirty-six historical figures (including four women) have been named "Doctor of the Church." The other women are Teresa of Ávila, Hildegard von Bingen, and Thérèse of Lisieux. The ELW (p. 87) contains "A prayer of Catherine of Siena."

May 1, Philip and James, Apostles

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, who after following Jesus invited Nathanael to "come and see," and Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. According to tradition, Philip preached in Asia Minor and died as a martyr in Phrygia. James, the son of Alphaeus, is called "the Less" (meaning "short" or "younger") to distinguish him from another apostle named James, commemorated July 25. Philip and James are commemorated together because the remains of these two saints were placed in the Church of the Apostles in Rome on this day in 561.

May 2, Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria (296-373)

Athanasius attended the Council of Nicea in 325 as a deacon and secretary of the Bishop of Alexandria. Athanasius defended the full divinity of Christ against the Arian heresy held by emperors, magistrates, and other theologians. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his defense of the divinity of Christ. The Athanasian Creed (named for him) is recognized by the Lutheran Church, along with the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. Athanasius' Easter Letter of 367 is the oldest surviving record listing the 27 canonical books of the New Testament. This is significant, because it demonstrates that the canon of the New Testament was already established prior to 367 through a process of tradition rather than by the decree of a council.



A Brighter Tomorrow

Sunday,
April 26

Queen City
RINGERS

5:00 pm

IN CONCERT

Free! Donations welcome.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Steve Gore, 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, 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)

Readings for 5/3/2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Birthdays

4/27 Timothy McKenzie

4/28 Catherine Metze

4/29 Ella Puky

4/29 Jim Stone

4/30 Sophie Schwartz

4/30 Ainsley Stevenson

5/1 Randall Darnell

5/1 Alexandra Jacob

5/1 Melissa Smith

5/2 Lauren Dunlap

5/2 Helen Holzinger



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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