



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MAY 17, 2026

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Through today's scriptural images we witness the early church yearning for restoration, support, strength, and provision in times of struggle. We hear Jesus pray, "that they may be one, as we are one." In joy, we present ourselves to God our Creator, acknowledging our dependence upon the Holy Spirit for the living of our days.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Andante cantabile" from *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*

Sergei Rachmaninoff; Arranged for trombone and piano by Michael Johnson

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

Processional Hymn

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" ELW 392 stanzas 1-4

HYFRYDOL

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."
2. Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believe, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore?"
3. Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.
4. Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

Please be seated.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

“Jesus, We Are Gathered” ELW 529 sing two times

JESU, TAWA PANO

Text & Music Patrick Matsikenyi © 1990, 1996 General board of global Ministries, GBG Music

Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, Je - su, ta - wa pa - no,
 Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus, we are gath-ered,

Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re - nyu.
 Je - sus, we are gath-ered, we are gath-ered, Lord Je-sus, for you.

Hymn of Praise

“Glory Be to God in Heaven”

Holy Communion Setting Ten
 Tune: HYMN TO JOY

1. Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
 Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
 we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1:6-14

Kay Finlon, lector

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 68:4 (Sally Messner) from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



Sing to God, who rides up - on the clouds.

¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee. ²As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. ³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful. ⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; "I AM" is that name, rejoice before God! R ⁵In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows; ⁶you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places. ⁷O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, ⁸the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. ⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished. ¹⁰Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor. R ³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord. ³³You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice. ³⁴Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies. ³⁵How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God! R

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Kay Finlon, lector

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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 17:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“By Your Spirit, Make Us One”

Pastor Alexandra Rode

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“I Come with Joy” ELW 482

DOVE OF PEACE

Text & Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950 T&M © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. By Music Services in the Western Hemisphere



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

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

Riley Smith, 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.*

Holy Spirit, renew the ministries of this congregation and all communities of faith. Bless our fellowship, outreach, learning, and worship. Inspire us to welcome others with open hearts and to use our gifts faithfully for the good of our neighbors and the strengthening of your kingdom. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, you speak and your Word fills the universe with life. Bring favorable weather and nourishing rain that will nurture plants and animals; protect communities from extreme weather and natural disasters; and guide the human family to care for one another and all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Loving Savior, you prayed for your disciples and you continue to hold your people in your care. We lift before you all who are sick, grieving, lonely, anxious, or overwhelmed. Surround them with your healing presence and strengthen all caregivers, medical workers, counselors, and family members who walk beside

them. Surround our loved ones with your healing presence, 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 & Danyne Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa & Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, raise up leaders who will care for the nations, resist evil, and suffer alongside of those who suffer. Guide the leaders of the nations to work tirelessly for peace, an end to war and conflict, and to help rebuild communities than have been scarred and displaced by the destruction of war. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom and new beginnings, we pray for students, graduates, teachers, and young adults entering new seasons of life. Give them courage, clarity, and confidence as they step into unfamiliar places. Surround them with mentors, friendships, and opportunities to grow into the people you have called them to be. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, we praise you that Christ prepares a place for us at the table in your kingdom. We offer you thanks for the life and witness of Ronald Arthur Wenzel, Sr., father of Ron Wenzel. Welcome Ronald into the blessedness of your eternal kingdom and may he share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Strengthen and comfort the extended Wenzel family with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Christ Jesus. 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.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

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

Anthem

“Alleluia”

Ed Harris

Come adoring and confessing, alleluia. Come to God, receive His blessing, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. God of God and King of Kings, alleluia. Maker of all wondrous things, alleluia. Sing we praises unto you, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether” ELW 470 stanza 1 & 2

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.

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.

“Meditation on ‘Wondrous Love’”

Southern harmony tune WONDROUS LOVE
Setting for trombone and organ by Todd Marchand

Communion Hymn

“Christ Our Peace” ACS 1037 sing two times, from *All Creation Sings*

CHRIST, OUR PEACE

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adpt.

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;
Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

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 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” ELW 855 stanzas 1 & 3-5 **DIADEMATA**

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.
3. Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.
4. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
5. Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

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

“Intrada” from *Suite of Dances*

Johann Pezel

Arranged for trombone and organ by Kurt Sturzenegger

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✠

✠

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant: Riley Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Mike Doyne, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Michael Thompson; greeters: Tom & Kay Sehorn, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Laura Foust, Betsy Wenzel, Susan Lakeman; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Janice Miller; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Scott Hartman, bass trombone; Taylor McNamara, Jack Richardson, cantors ; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Kay Finlon; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team A; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon; communion assistants: Bonnie Eckerd, Rebecca Huang, Karen & Kevin Feezor; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Charles Lakeman, Susan League

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

Today:

Endowment Committee: 9:30 am Reception Room

Confirmation Class: 9:30 am, Lower level

Faith Forum: 9:30 am, Large Conference Room

Family Ministry: "Everybody's Birthday Party," 1 pm in the Nursery.

This Week:

Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Nakato Japanese Steakhouse on May 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Nakato is located at 8500 Pineville-Matthews Road (NC-51), 28226. We have always enjoyed the hijinks of the hibachi chefs at Nakato, and the food is always delicious and plentiful! Please consider joining us for fun at Nakato. Free parking is abundant in front of the restaurant. Friends and visitors are always welcome! Nakato limits large parties to 20 people, so get your RSVP in before we max-out. RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by Sunday afternoon before this dinner.

Theology on Tap May 21 at 7pm at Birdsong Brewing Company, 1016 N. Davidson Street, Charlotte 28206. Come join us!

Next Week:

St. Mark's Book Study Group will meet on Thursday, May 28, at 10 am in the large conference room and

via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Our selection this month is *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston. This is the story of a zany case of mistaken identity that allows a lonely old man one last chance to be part of a family. The man is Frederick Fife, who was born with an extra helping of kindness in his heart. If he borrowed your car, he'd return it washed with a full tank of gas. The problem is, at age eighty-two, there's nobody left in Fred's life to borrow from, and he's broke and on the brink of eviction. But Fred's luck changes when he's mistaken for Bernard Greer, a missing resident at the local nursing home, and takes his place. Now Fred has warm meals in his belly and a roof over his head—as long as his look-alike Bernard never returns. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

5/24 Day of Pentecost 8:30 am & 10:30 am

5/31 Holy Trinity Sunday 8:30 am & **Senior Sunday** (10:30) Please join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating high school seniors.

Save the date! Sullenberger Aviation Museum Visit

June 13 at 9 am. Cost \$18 per adult. The Men's Group is inviting everyone to sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-63869003-sullenberger> Watch for updates.



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.

Stewardship

Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the 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, please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Social Ministry

NOURISH UP in May Help us "meat" the needs of the food pantry this May! Please donate canned tuna, chicken and salmon. *Cans with pop tabs appreciated.* Other highly requested items are: whole grain cereals, low sugar or unsweetened fruits, low sodium canned vegetables, and pasta. *Your donations help our neighbors!*

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

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" ELW 392 This hymn was written in as a communion hymn in 1866 by William C. Dix (1837-1898). It was published in his *Altar Songs* (1867) under the title "Redemption by the Precious Blood" He had a successful career as a marine insurance manager in Glasgow, Scotland, but developed a second career as a writer of hymns, Christmas and Easter carols, as well as other religious verses, devotional books, and instructions for children. In addition to this hymn, our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes two additional hymns by Dix: "As with Gladness Men of Old" ELW 302, and "What Child Is This" ELW 296. The tune **HYFRYDOL** is a Welsh tune composed by Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887). **HYFRYDOL** means delightful, beautiful, sweet and melodious. This popular hymn tune is paired with four different hymn texts in our hymnal.

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" ELW 855. This hymn was extracted from two six stanza hymns, twelve stanzas total. From Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) we have stanzas one, two, three, and five, and from Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) stanza four. Both hymn writers were inspired by the passage from Revelation 19:12 "and on his head were many crowns." Each stanza itemizes the characteristics of the risen Lord: "The Lamb upon his throne," "The Lord of love," "The Lord of life," and "The Lord of years." George Elvey (1816-1893) wrote the tune **DIADEMATA** for this hymn, with its first publication in the 1868 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune name **DIADEMATA** is derived from the Greek word for crown or diadems, a royal headband.

"I Come with Joy" ELW 482 This hymn comes to us from the pen of contemporary British pastor and hymn writer Brian Wren (b. 1936). Written in the summer of 1968, the hymn was intended as a complement to a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. Wren gathers in all the elements of the Lord's Supper-joy, forgiveness, remembrance, community, love, praise, thanksgiving, and dedication. He writes: "The hymn moves from the individual ('I come') to the collective (we'll go'). Stanza four describes Christ's 'real presence' in the faith community and in the communion meal." The tune **DOVE OF PEACE** is from *The Southern Harmony*, (New Haven, 1835), a hymnal compiled by William Walker (1809-1875).

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

May 18, Erik, King of Sweden, martyr (died 1160)

Erik, long considered the patron saint of Sweden, ruled from c. 1156 to 1160. He is honored for efforts to bring peace and for his work to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He established a protected Christian mission in Finland that was led by Henry of Uppsala. As king, Erik was noted for his desire to establish fair laws and courts, and for his concern for the poor and sick. Erik was killed by a Danish army that approached him at worship on the day after Ascension. He is reported to have said before his death, "Let us at least finish the sacrifice. The rest of the feast I shall keep elsewhere."

May 21, Helena, mother of Constantine (died c. 330)

Helena was mother of future Roman emperor, Constantine the Great. After her son was converted to Christianity, he influenced her to also become a Christian. Helena led an exemplary life, was generous to the poor, and is also remembered for traveling through Palestine and building churches on locations she believed to be sites of the Nativity, Jesus' burial, and the Ascension.

	TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 7:30 PM Dall'Italia con amore	
	THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 7:30 PM Bach and the French Influence	
	FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 7:30 PM Echoes of Bach	BA CH CHARLOTTE • BACH FESTIVAL
	SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 3 PM Organ Recital with Lester Ackerman	AT ST. MARK'S! St. Mark's members half off tickets at the door!!
Tickets: https://bachcharlotte.com/charlottebachfestival		

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 5/24/2026

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

Birthdays

5/19 Sarah Storrs

5/22 Margaret Poplin



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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