



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



MAY 3, 2026

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In today's gospel, Jesus says he is the way, truth and life, and promises that he goes to prepare a place for us in his Father's house. He invites us to ask in his name, reminding us that our lives and our times are lived in his name. Peter also declares that we are the "living stones" of a spiritual house, a royal priesthood, and a people chosen to proclaim Jesus Christ, who has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light!

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Hymn of Promise"

Tune by Natalie Sleeth

Setting for handbells by Martha Lynn Thompson

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

Processional Hymn

"Now the Vault of Heaven Resounds" ELW 367 LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin Augsburg Fortress; Music: *Gästliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

1. Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here: Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife. "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!
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

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

JESU, TAWA PANO

Text & Music Patrick Matsikenyiri © 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. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Musical Interlude

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Tune HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard

Setting for handbells by Douglas E. Wagner

WORD

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Karen Feezor, lector

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Madeline Phillips, Nick Matherly, cantors

Psalm 31:5 (Mark Shepperd) from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame; deliver me | in your righteousness. ²Incline your | ear to me; make haste to de- | liver me. ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me. ⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me, for you are my tow- | er of strength. R ⁵Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth. ¹⁵My times are | in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me. ¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant; save me in your | steadfast love." R

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Karen Feezor, lector

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to and a rock that makes them fall. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Ask in my name”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

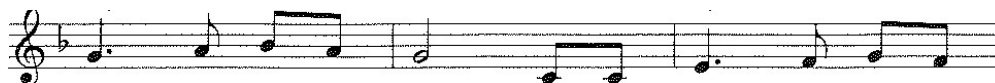
Hymn of the Day

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

HYMN OF PROMISE



1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the
 2. There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing
 3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our



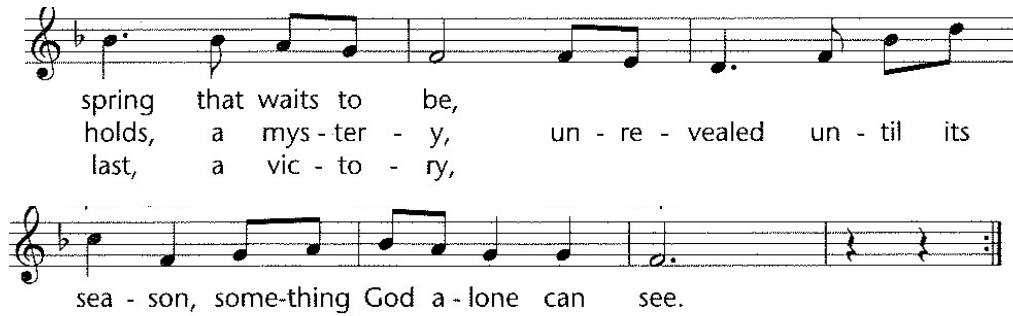
seed, an ap - ple tree; in co - coons, a hid - den
 word and mel - o - dy; there's a dawn in ev - 'ry
 time, in - fin - i - ty; in our doubt there is be -



prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free! In the
 dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and me. From the
 liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty. In our



cold and snow of win - ter there's a
 past will come the fu - ture; what it
 death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the



spring that waits to be,
holds, a mys-ter-y, un-re-vealed un-til its
last, a vic-to-ry,
sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

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

Melissa 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.*

Faithful God, we pray for the leaders of our church. Grant them wisdom in decision-making, humility in service, and courage to lead with clarity and compassion. In times of challenge, give them steadiness. In times of growth, give them vision. In all things, root them in your Word and your grace. Shape us

together as one powerful body so that we may support one another, serve our neighbors, and reflect your love in all we do. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of majesty, your Word creates and sustains all that has life: plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Grant us the vision to protect your creation from the ravages of pollution and climate change through thoughtful and sustained policies enabling future generations to also enjoy the planet home you have given to us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of all seasons, in a world of constant change, we pray for those navigating transition, uncertainty, or loss. Give clarity where there is confusion, courage where there is fear, and trust in your steady presence. Help us move forward not in anxiety, but in faith. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of well-being, heal and strengthen all who are sick or anxious; all who struggle with addiction or loneliness; and grant faith and peace to the dying. Surround our loved ones with your healing hands, 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.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the St. Mark's community and for the renovation of our Fellowship Hall. Bless the work of those who plan and build, and give patience to all during this time of change. May this space become a place of welcome, connection, learning, and care, where meals are shared, laughter is heard, and your love is made known. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Eternal God, you have prepared dwelling places for all your people, and Jesus has promised to come again and take us to you. Bless us to live in your name each day and to trust in you for all that we need, so that at the end of our lives, you will take us to yourself and we may be with you forever. 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

“Now Let Us Praise God and Sing”

Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise; that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia! All ye servants of the Lord, praise him forever, sing Jehovah's mighty pow'r, praise him forever. Sing of his righteousness, praise him forever. So let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise; that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia!

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” ELW 392 stanza one

HYFRYDOL

Text: William c. Dix, 1857-1898, alt.; Music, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep-ter,
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: “Je - sus
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood.”

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.

“Chorale-Chaconne on ‘Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing’”

Tune TRURO by Thomas Williams
Settings for organ by Matthew H. Corl

Communion Hymn “Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life” ELW 816

THE CALL

Text: George Herbert 1593-1632; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, M © Stainer & Bell, Ltd.

1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can

strife; such a life as kill
length; such a strength as makes
part; such a heart as joys eth death.
his guest.
in love.

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

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” ELW 389

TRURO

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.
3. In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.
4. Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

Tune GELOBT SEI GOTT by Melchior Vulpius

Setting for organ by John Leavitt



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer/acolyte: Riley Smith; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Michael Thompson; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; St. Mark's handbells; Nick Matherly, Madeline Phillips, cantors ; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team A; greeters: Susan Lakeman, Dawn Schwartz; communion assistants: John Simon, Chris Stevenson, Nick Wartner, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Charles Lakeman, Diane Thomas

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: 9:30 am Family Ministry Informational Session in the Nursery. See Pastor Ali for details.

St. Mark's Men's Group Annual Breakfast 5/9 All the men of the congregation are invited to join us this Saturday, May 9 at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a special potluck breakfast. Please sign up by copying the link or call the church office (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-63702736-mens>), plan on bringing some breakfast food (and note on the signup what you would like to bring.). Questions? Contact Mike Doyne, Steve McCall or Kevin Feezor.

Love Circle Members Spring Luncheon at LaPeep May 13 at 11:30 am, for our last gathering until fall. Seating is limited.

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!

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.

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.

All Young Families "Everybody's Birthday Party" - May 17th at 1:00pm. We'd like to invite families with young children to join together at St. Mark's for a time of fellowship and getting to know one another, kids and adults together. We'll gather according to folks' availability for an "Everybody's Birthday Party" where kids will receive a small birthday gift and we can all (regardless of age) celebrate that we are children of God.

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

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" ELW 367 This Easter hymn was first published in the *Service Book and Hymnal* (1958). The author is Paul Zeller Strodach (1876-1947) a Lutheran Pastor and author of numerous devotional and liturgical books, including *The Church Year: Studies in the Introits, Collects, Epistles, and Gospels* (Philadelphia, 1924). Notice the phrase "Christ has triumphed! He is living!", uses the same rhythmic and melodic ostinato five times in the first three stanzas. The fourth stanza, a doxology in praise of the Trinity, concludes "Christ has triumphed!" with an "Alleluia!" Strodach intended this hymn to be paired with the sixteenth-century German tune **LASST UNS ERFREUEN**. Though a vocally "athletic" tune, it spans only one octave. Dr. Paul Westermeyer writes in his *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2010) "Strodach knew what he was doing when he used this tune for a text that joins the song of heaven and earth and has the incarnational exchange of the heaven's vault on the low end and the earth's "here" on the high."

"Jesus, We Are Gathered" ELW 529 This text and tune **JESU, TAWA PANO** are by Patrick Matsikenyiri (b. 1937) a musician and member of the Shona tribe in Zimbabwe. He is an internationally famous promoter of global African song. The text translates "we are gathered" or "we are here for you". C. Michael Hawn, a professor at Southern Methodist University writes: "the text functions like a Shona proverb, in this case like an acclamation or expression of community in which the plural 'we' is an affirmation that the community has a role in the health and spiritual well-being of the individual worshiper. Given the difficulties of getting to worship in Zimbabwe and the suffering many worshipers are undergoing, it is literally a miracle that many people 'are here' in worship."

"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" ELW 389 was penned by Brian Wren (b.1936) for Easter of 1968, just ten days after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Wren is a minister in the United Reformed Church of England and Wales. He has revised this hymn several times, with the version in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* completed in 1993. His hymn reminds us that the risen Christ is not far away from our lives. Christ is alive, and suffers with us, yet lives and comes to us with good news, "fill all of creation rings with joy, justice, love and praise." The tune **TRURO** is named for a city in Cornwall, England, and we believe written by Thomas Williams, from a collection of his hymns entitled *Psalmodia Evangelica*, published in 1789."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

May 4, Monica, mother of Augustine (322-387)

Monica was married to a Roman named Patricius, who was a government official in Thagaste (in present day Algeria). She rejoiced when both her husband and his mother became Christian. Monica is best known as the mother of the theologian, Augustine. Monica became a disciple of Ambrose, bishop of Milan, and after resisting Christianity for seventeen years, her son Augustine was baptized by Ambrose on Easter, 387. Almost everything we know about Monica comes from Augustine's *Confessions*, his autobiography. She died far from home, but said to her son, "Do not fret because I am buried far from our home in Africa. Nothing is far from God, and I have no fear that God will not know where to find me, when Christ comes to raise me to life at the end of the world." Her dying wish was that her son remember her at the altar of the Lord, wherever he was.

May 8, Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church (c.1342-c.1416)

Julian of Norwich lived as an anchoress in Norwich, England, and after recovering from a serious illness she described visions that had come to her in 1373 during her suffering. She conceived of a loving and compassionate God, merciful and forgiving, and believed in our ability to reach self-knowledge despite sin. She wrote of God as our mother, and was a strikingly independent thinker. Her book, *Revelations of Divine Love*, is the earliest surviving book in the English language written by a woman. Though little is known about her life, she is one of the most celebrated figures of the English Middle Ages, and esteemed as one of the profoundest thinkers of this period. A prayer and a hymn attributed to Julian are included in the ELW (p.87, #735).

May 9 Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter (1700-1760)

Count Zinzendorf was born into an aristocratic family and after the death of his father was raised by his Pietistic grandmother. This influence was a lasting one, and he moved away from the overly intellectual Lutheranism of the Enlightenment period. When he was twenty-two, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on his lands. He agreed, and they established a settlement they called "Herrnhut, or "the Lord's watch." Eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith, including "Jesus, Still Lead On" (ELW 624).

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, Dannye & Bonnie Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa & Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests
(pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 5/10/2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Birthdays

5/3 Bill Schwartz

5/3 Karsen Ferner

5/9 Roger Bruhwel



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

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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