

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

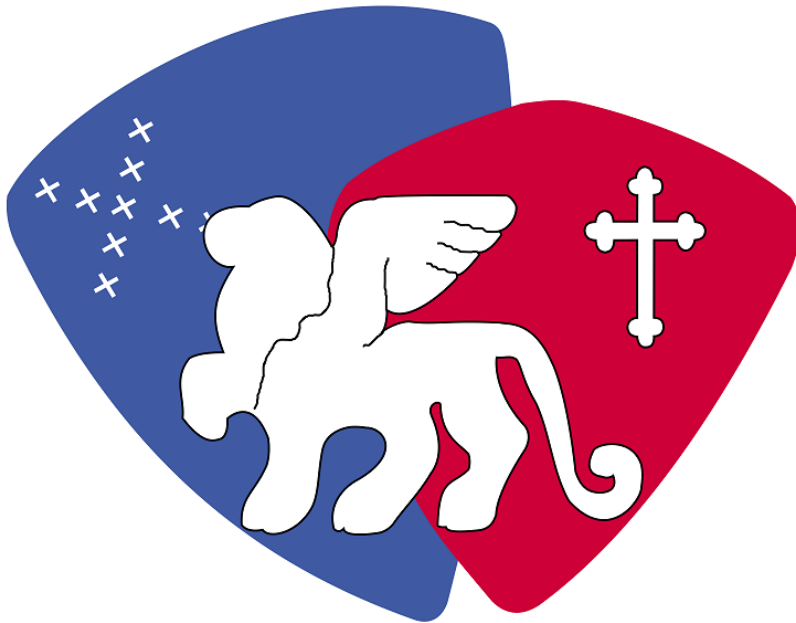
Our Vision:

To grow in Christ through worship and service

Our Mission:

Called to be Christ Centered

Touching Lives + Transforming Hearts + Teaching God's Word



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“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided;

the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.”

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!” (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 119:105-112

Judith Maloney

- 105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.
- 106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.
- 107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.
- 108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.
- 109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.
- 111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

The New Testament

Romans 8:1-11

Joe Bieker

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing Hymnal pg. 493

The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and

brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 358

The Prayers of the People; Form III (BCP pg. 387)

Heather Griffin

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader: We pray for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Jose, our Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader: We pray for Donald, our President, Josh, our Governor, for our elected officials; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader: We pray for those who are in harm's way, for those who have asked for prayers, for those who are sick, in sorrow, need, or any adversity. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader: Give to (_____ and to) all the departed eternal rest.

People: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

I invite your prayers of intercession either silently or aloud.

(The people add their own petitions)

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Alban's, Hickory.

We pray for those who travel this week.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week, and for those celebrating their wedding anniversaries.

We give thanks for all the ministries and activities of this parish, and pray that God will continue to bless all who partake of, or serve in them.

(The priest offers a concluding Collect)

People: *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP pg. 360

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

(Please greet each other in the name of Christ)

Announcements with:

Birthday Prayer

BCP pg. 830

Anniversary Prayer

BCP pg. 431

Offertory

Presentation Hymn: "The Doxology"

The Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving	Eucharistic Prayer A	BCP pg. 361
Sanctus		Hymnal S 129
The Lord's Prayer		BCP pg. 364
The Breaking of the Bread	<i>(The Fraction)</i>	
Celebrant	Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;	
<i>People</i>	<i>Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.</i>	
The Fraction Anthem		Hymnal S 154
The Ministration of the Communion		
	<i>During communion, or after the service, the chapel is open for intercessory prayer, with Steve Thomas serving as intercessor.</i>	
Communion Hymns		
This is the Hour of Banquet and of Song		Hymnal pg. 316
Hear, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face		Hymnal pg. 318
My God, Thy Table Now is Spread		Hymnal pg. 321
Post Communion Prayer		BCP pg. 365
The Blessing		
Recessional Hymn	All Things Bright and Beautiful	Hymnal pg. 405
Dismissal		
Postlude		

Announcements

To Our Guests

If you are traveling or visiting family and friends from out of town, we wish you a safe and peaceful journey. If you are seeking a church home and looking for a new or deeper relationship with God in Christ, we hope that you will take some time and just be among us. We want to learn who you are, worship with you, and share in your spiritual journey.

Community Garden

Our regular garden crew works hard on Saturday mornings to keep the beds healthy and thriving, and they'd welcome a few extra hands. Watering and light weeding are the biggest needs right now. If you have a few minutes around from **8:00 to 10:00 AM on a Saturday**, reach out to the office or to Travis Johnson to see how you can help.

Clothing Closet Needs

Our Clothing Closet has ongoing needs. If you're out shopping and can add an item or two to your cart, it makes a real difference to those we serve at our doors during the week.

Men's Small	Men's Medium	Men's Large	Men's Sneakers
Drawstring Shorts Hoodies Sweatpants Shirts	Drawstring Shorts Sweatshirts Sweatpants Hoodies	Sweatshirts Hoodies	All sizes

The Daughters of the King



Our Chapter of *The Daughters of the King* is looking for women who are interested in becoming a member of this treasured prayer ministry here at St. Mark's. For information, please, contact Bonnie Kieffer at bkieffer2665@gmail.com or any member of the D.O.K. (*we'll be wearing a Cross of the Order*)

Healing Service Ministry

A reminder that our **Healing Service Ministry** continues on **Thursday mornings** from **11:00 am - 12 Noon** in the sanctuary. This ministry is led by laypersons from the parish. For additional information, please contact Eileen Klimkowski.



Vacation Bible School at All Saints Saturday July 18, 2026 9am-2pm

All Saints Episcopal Church is hosting this year's VBS program on Saturday, Jul 18th for rising 1st - 6th graders. The theme is "Jesus is my Rock."

Need more information?

Please, call **All Saints** or email **The Rev. Tara Bartal** at: **704-864-7102**.

Volunteers are welcome and encouraged. Thank you for your support !

Second Helping Pantry

Life happens... When it does, our Second Helping Pantry is here for you! Located on the second floor, last room on the left (on east end), it's quietly stocked with food and a few essentials, available to whoever may need just a bit of extra support along the way. Please feel free to take what would be helpful.

Asking for Bottled Water

The summer heat is intense, and staying hydrated is essential. We're gathering bottled water for our homeless neighbors; any donations you're able to offer are deeply appreciated.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.



**Register to attend via this QR
Code or visit the Parish website:
<https://www.stmarksgastonia.org/>**



As we near the end of our shared ministry with the Bishop José as our Diocesan Bishop, we would like to invite you to share in showing him our appreciation and love. There are two opportunities to contribute to this effort. We would love to send Bishop José into the next chapter of his ministry with a purse he and Laurel will be able to use as they see fit. Bishop José has also invited contributions to an in-gathering fund to match his pledge of \$150,000 to construct two or more new hermitages at the Valle Cruscis Conference Center. Links to both invitations can be found in the weekly eblast, on our website or on the Diocesan website. We are deeply grateful for the ministry of Bishop José and for your generosity toward celebrating his leadership.

SCHEDULE FOR LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS – JULY 2026

	July 5 6 th Sunday after Pentecost	July 12 7 th Sunday after Pentecost	July 19 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	July 26 9 th Sunday after Pentecost
Lay Reader 9:30 AM	OT: Mary Grace Shockley Ps: Mary Grace Shockley NT: Joe Bieker Prayers: Fran Henderson	OT: Judith Maloney Ps: Judith Maloney NT: Joe Bieker Prayers: Heather Griffin	OT: Heanzlene DeCastro Ps: Heanzlene DeCastro NT: Omar DeCastro Prayers: Leslie Harris	OT: Judy Jackson-Malina Ps: Judy Jackson-Malina NT: Bonnie Kieffer Prayers: Pat Townsend
Ushers	Walter Hobbs Nancy Byers	Steve Campbell Bob Ridgeway	Bev Bieker Chappell Harris	Blaine Rudisill Cookie Rudisill
Greeters	Patti Tamberella Mike Tamberella	Fe McLaughlin Tim McLaughlin	Susan Sowersby Marilyn Walters	Danelle Blackwell Jessie Paradice
Acolytes	C: Joe Bieker G: Ethan Jones	C: Tucker Doyne G: Emma Kate Griffin	C: Kenya Pond G: Kenslie DeCastro	C: Ella Carsner G: Jack Carsner
Nursery		Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake
Preacher	Fr. R. Allan McCaslin	Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson	Fr. R. Allan McCaslin	Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke
Flowers	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship
Altar Guild	Bev Bieker Pat Townsend	Kenna Watts Anna Smith	Mary Barker	Mary Grace Shockley
Coffee Hour	Mike & Patti Tamberella	TBD	TBD	Mike & Patti Tamberella
Vestry Lock-Up	Eric Lampke	Eric Lampke	Eric Lampke	Eric Lampke

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin.....*Interim Priest*
 The Ven. Brenda M. Gilbert.....*Archdeacon, Dio. of Western NC*
 The Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson.....*Deacon*
 Ms. Dionne Browning.....*Business Administrator*
 Ms. Debbie Brake.....*Nursery*
 Ms. Beverly Bieker.....*Office Assistant*
 Mr. Kris Kiser.....*Church Sexton*

CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Mr. Eric Lampke, '27.....*Senior Warden, Bldgs-Grounds*
 Mrs. Judy Jackson Malina, '26.....*Junior Warden, Outreach*
 Mrs. Suzanne Whatley, '25.....*Parish Life*
 Mrs. Fe McLaughlin, '26.....*Parish Life, Newcomers*
 Ms. Marilyn Walters, '26.....*In-reach*
 Mr. George Sowersby, '27.....*Buildings and Grounds*
 Mrs. Pat Townsend, '27.....*In-reach*
 Ms. Dionne R. Browning.....*Vestry Clerk*
 Mr. Steve Campbell.....*Treasurer*
 Mrs. Kenna Watts.....*Assistant Treasurer*

