

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

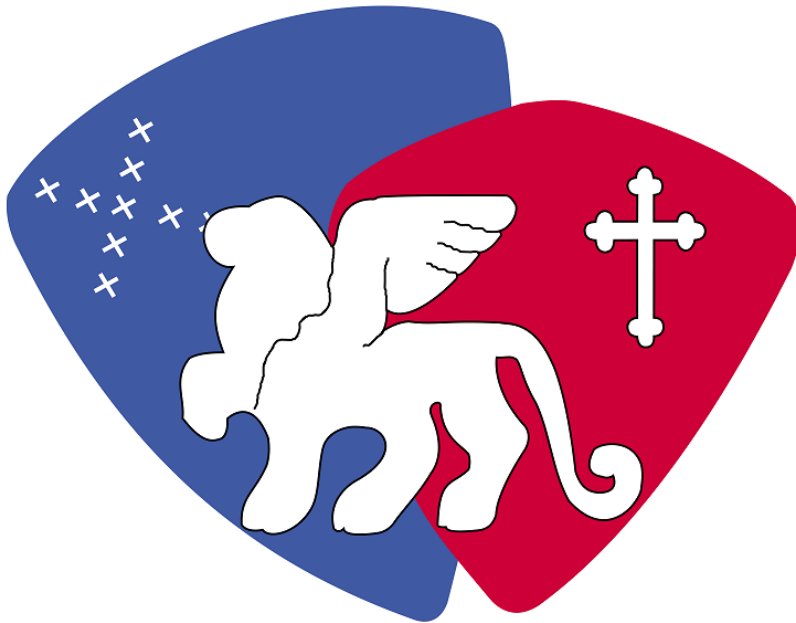
Our Vision:

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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The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

July 19, 2026, 9:30 AM

Prelude

Processional Hymn I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Hymnal pg. 490

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **BCP pg. 355**

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Gloria (S 280) BCP pg. 356

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The Old Testament	Genesis 28:10-19a	Heanzlene DeCastro
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Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north

and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

Heanzlene DeCastro

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"

- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

The New Testament

Romans 8:12-25

Omar DeCastro

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Hymnal pg. 686

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 358

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

Leslie Harris

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 Sudan.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Faith Memorial Chapel, Cedar Mountain and Whiteside Summer Chapel, Cashiers.

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 (*The Fraction*)

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

The Ministration of the Communion

*Join Steve Thomas in the chapel during communion or after services
on Sunday for intercessory prayer.*

Communion Hymns

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Hymnal pg. 324

Let Us Break Bread Together

Hymnal pg. 325

Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord

Hymnal pg. 328

Post Communion Prayer

BCP pg. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Hymnal pg. 510

Dismissal

Postlude

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

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

The garden at All Saints is growing beautifully, thanks to a faithful Saturday crew who tends the beds each week. As Travis announced on Sunday, they have harvested **over 1000 pounds of produce in the last five years!** They'd love a few extra hands. Right now, watering and light weeding make the biggest difference. If you have a few minutes between 8:00 and 10:00 AM on a Saturday, reach out to the office or to Travis Johnson — we'll happily point you toward a spot where you can help.

Clothing Closet Needs

Helping our neighbors feel as clean and dry as possible.

Men's - Small

Drawstring shorts · Hoodies · Sweatpants · Shirts (sweat and T)
"It is the small things...Simple acts of kindness and love." ~Tolkien

Men's - Medium

Drawstring shorts · Sweatshirts · Sweatpants · Hoodies
A happy medium.

Men's - Large

Sweatshirts · Hoodies
"The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of one's self to others." ~Teilhard

Men's - Sneakers

All sizes are needed.
These vanish faster than socks in a dryer.

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.



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 our Cross of the Order*)

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 26 Miracles of Jesus



Learn about the healing power of Jesus as we explore His miracles and learn how to pray for anyone, anywhere, in the name of Jesus.

Thursdays, 12 noon – 1 pm
Aug 6th – Oct 29th, 2026
St. Mark's

A DVD teaching series led by two retired Episcopal priests;
hosted by Eileen Klimkowski.



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

CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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

