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

258 West Franklin Boulevard, Gastonia, North Carolina 28052

Phone 704-864-4531

Email office@stmarksgastonia.org

www.stmarksgastonia.org

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist, Rite II

November 8, 2026, 10:30 AM

Welcome Home to Saint Mark's!

It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with allergies. Children are also welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at St. Mark's.

If this is your first time at St. Mark's, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by the Parish Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be honored to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at www.stmarksgastonia.org

Again, Welcome Home to St. Mark's!
May God's peace and love enfold you.

Note: It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

All scripture passages are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible,* © 1989, Division of Christian Education in the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude: **"Cwm Rhondda"** **John A. Behnke**

Processional Hymn **"God of Grace and God of Glory"** **Hymnal #594**

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation: **BCP pg. 299**

Blessed (†) be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

The Celebrant then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: **One God and Father of all.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day:

God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: ***Amen.***

(All are seated for the Lessons from scripture . All children present are encouraged to depart for their Children's Chapel program.)

The Lessons

The First Lesson: **Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

(Time for silent reflection follows the reading.)

The Response: **Psalm 78:1-7**

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

(Time for silent reflection follows.)

The Sequence Hymn: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Hymnal # 68

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom

came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

The Sermon: The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin

A time for silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Presentation and Examination of the Baptismal Candidate **BCP pg. 301**

Celebrant: The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The candidate along with his parents and Godparents gather at the font and say,

We present Ethan Russell Jones to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant asks the parents and godparents,

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Response: I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents on behalf of the child.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying,

Question Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People: **We will.**

(All Stand)

Let us join with all who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,**
creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Continued…

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

The Prayers for the Candidate

Let us now pray for Ethan who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.
***People*:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

The Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

As water is poured into the font, the Celebrant continues,

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify (†) this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Baptism

The *candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant who then pours water upon the candidate, saying*

Ethan Russell Jones, I baptize you in the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

People: **Amen.**

Then the celebrant places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying,

Ethan, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. ***People:*** **Amen.**

Celebrant

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God.
Confess the faith of Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Preceded by the Celebrant asperging the congregation with the water of baptism the Godparents, followed by the parents, carry the newly baptized into the congregation.

The Peace:

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The people greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

The Announcements:

The Birthday Prayer:		**BCP pg. 830**
The Anniversary Prayer:		**BCP pg. 431**
The Offertory Anthem	**"Beautiful Savior"**	**Kenneth T. Kosche**
The Presentation Hymn:	**"The Doxology" (Vs. 3 *only*)**	**Hymn # 380**

The Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving:	***Eucharistic Prayer D***	**BCP pg. 372**
The Sursum Corda:		**BCP pg. 372**
The Proper Preface:		**BCP pg. 373**
The Sanctus:		**Hymnal # S-129**

(All kneel as they are able)

The Prayer of Consecration:

The Lord's Prayer: **BCP pg. 364**

The Breaking of the Bread: ***(The Fraction)***

The Fraction Anthem: **Hymnal # S-154**

The Ministration of the Communion:

Communion Hymns:

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" **Hymnal #324**

"Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord" **Hymnal #526 v.1-3**

"Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus" **Hymnal #336**

Post Communion Prayer: **BCP pg. 365**

The Blessing:

(All are seated for the Commemoration)

Concluding Hymn: **"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"** **Hymnal # 436**

The Dismissal:

Postlude: **Postlude on"In Babilone"** **Gordon Young**

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and
in celebration of Ethan Jones' baptism and
in memory of Barbara Reidy on her heavenly birthday today by Sarah Reidy-Jones.

Announcements

Adult Christian Education (A.C.E.)

Join Fr. Allan in the Balthis Room at 9:15 am for "Part 3" of his series, ***"The Drama of Christian Worship"***. This series explores the depths of how The Episcopal Church proclaims "The Greatest Story Ever Told" throughout every worship service gathering.

We Could Use More Blankets

As the weather gets colder, we have more demand for blankets. We can use blankets of all sizes, but what are needed most are fleece, or faux fleece, throw blankets; usually about 50x60 in size. They usually come packaged in a roll, and their price ranges from $5 to $12 a piece. Thank you!

Healing Service Ministry

Our **Healing Service Ministry** continues **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.

Caring Cupboard Immediate Needs

We have a few emergency needs for our Caring Cupboard. Thank you!

- Canned beans (no green beans please),
- boxes or cups of Mac and Cheese,
- cheese/peanut butter crackers,
- Beanie Weenies.

Clothing Closet Needs

Our Clothing Closet needs continue. 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 Medium	Men's Large	Men's XL (1X)	Men's XXL (2X)	Men's Sneakers
-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	All sizes

** We ask that they not be white, as our guests tell us that colored shirts are much more practical and comfortable for them.*

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. Sarah Lynch ..... *Organist & Choir Director*
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. 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. Elizabeth Whitford, '28..... *New Member*
Mr. Chappell Harris, '28..... *New Member*
Ms. Dionne R. Browning..... *Vestry Clerk*
Mr. Steve Campbell..... *Treasurer*
Mrs. Kenna Watts..... *Assistant Treasurer*