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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Holy Eucharist, Rite II
November 15, 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: **"Lift High the Cross"** **John Leavitt**

Processional Hymn **"We Gather Together"** **Hymnal #433**

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation: BCP pg. 355

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity:

The Gloria: ***#S-278***

The Collect of the Day:

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: ***And also with you.***
Celebrant: Let us pray.

> Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: ***Amen.***

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

The Lessons

The First Lesson: **Judges 4:1-7**

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you,

‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

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

(Time for silent reflection follows the reading.)

The Response: Psalm 123

1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

(Time for silent reflection follows the reading.)

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

(Time for silent reflection follows.)

The Sequence Hymn: "Before Thy Throne, O God We Kneel" Hymnal # 574

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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 Nicene Creed: BCP pg. 358

The Prayers of the People Form II BCP pg. 385

(In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.)

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop,
for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the
oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper
knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, I ask your prayers for the Anglican Church of Chile, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, I ask your prayers for the Spanish speaking congregations at Trinity, Spruce Pine; St. Mary's, Morganton; Grace, Waynesville, Church of our Savior, Newland, and for our Diocesan Spanish Speaking Missioners.
Pray for the ongoing mission of the Church throughout the world.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who serve as E*f*M Instructors, and for all the ministries and activities of this parish.
Pray for God's continued blessing on all who partake of, or serve in them.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Priest offers a concluding Collect.

The Confession of Sin: **BCP pg. 360**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All kneel as they are able.

The Absolution: **BCP pg. 360**

The Peace:

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

Please 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 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" **Michael Burkhardt**

The Presentation Hymn: **"The Doxology"** **Hymn # 380**
(Vs. 3 *only*)

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)***

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

The Fraction Anthem: **Hymnal # S-152**

The Ministration of the Communion:

All are welcome to join Steve Thomas in the chapel during communion or after services on Sunday for intercessory prayers.

Communion Hymns:

"Bread of the World" **Hymnal #301**

"I Come with Joy to Meet my Lord" **Hymnal #304**

"Strengthen for Service, Lord" **Hymnal #312**

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

The Blessing:

Concluding Hymn: **"Rise Up, Ye Saints of God"** **Hymnal # 551**

The Dismissal:

Postlude: **Postlude on"Lasst uns Erfreuen"** **Gordon Young**

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

Announcements

Adult Christian Education (A.C.E.)

Join Fr. Allan in the Balthis Room at 9:15 am for a discussion and reflection on today's Gospel reading.

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.

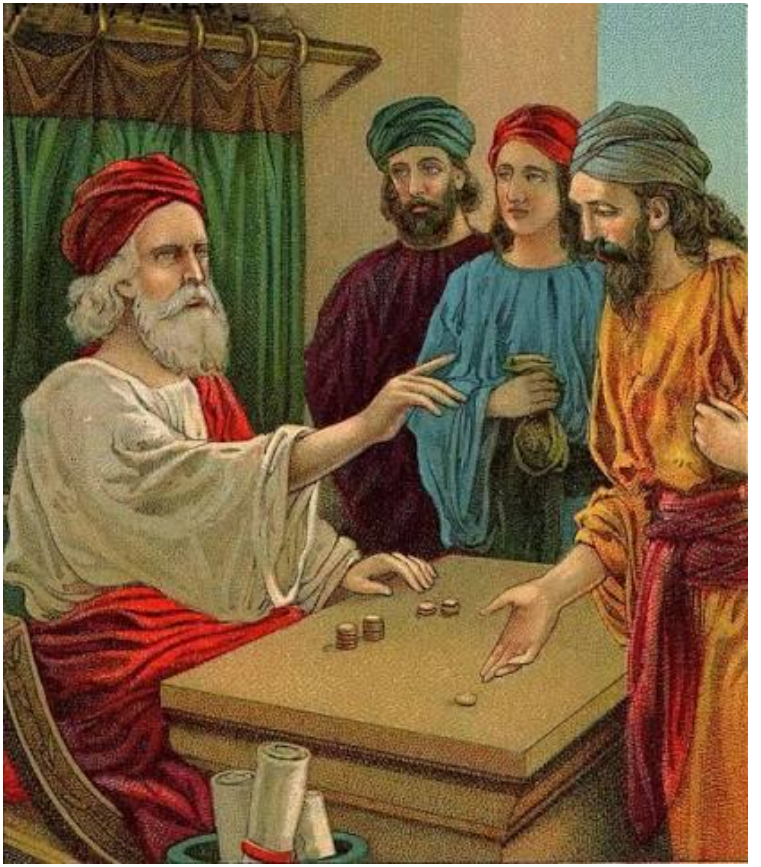
Men's Medium	Men's Large	Men's XL (1X)	Men's XXL (2X)	Men's Sneakers
-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	All sizes

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

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026

The Last Sunday after Pentecost – The Feast of Christ the King!

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 am Fellowship time – Parish Hall
9:15 am Adult Christian Education Class – Balthis Room
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
12:00 pm Fellowship time – Parish Hall



SCHEDULE FOR LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS – **NOVEMBER 2026**

	November 1 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	November 8 24th Sunday after Pentecost	November 15 25th Sunday after Pentecost	November 22 26th Sunday after Pentecost	November 29 1st Sunday of Advent
Lay Reader 8:00 AM	Pat Townsend	Linda Galda	George Sowersby	Judy Jackson-Malina	Judith Maloney
Lay Reader 10:30 AM	OT: Barbara Hartsell Ps: Barbara Hartsell NT: Heather Griffin Prayers: Heather Griffin	OT: Donna Dillon Ps: Donna Dillon NT: Dale Ward Prayers: Dale Ward	OT: Heanzlene DeCastro Ps: Heanzlene DeCastro NT: Omar DeCastro Prayers: Omar DeCastro	OT: Joe Bieker Ps: Joe Bieker NT: Elizabeth Whitford Prayers: Elizabeth Whitford	OT: Mary Grace Shockley Ps: Mary Grace Shockley NT: Dale Ward Prayers: Dale Ward
Ushers	Walter Hobbs Bob Ridgeway	Steve Campbell Marilyn Walters	Marilyn Walters HyCy Bull	Walter Hobbs Chappell Harris	Bob Ridgeway George Sowersby
Greeters	Fe McLaughlin Tim McLaughlin	Patti Tamberella Mike Tamberella	Bev Bieker Jessie Paradice	Bev Bieker Danelle Blackwell	Anna Carsner Richard Carsner
Acolytes	C: Kenya Pond G: Kenslie DeCastro T: Tucker Doyne T: Alex Griffin	C: Jessie Paradice G: Jake Barker T: Nora Johnson T: Millie Lampke	C: Tucker Doyne G: Kenslie DeCastro T: Emma Kate Griffin T: Kenya Pond	C: Ella Carsner G: Ethan Jones T: Jack Carsner T: Jake Barker	C: TBD G: TBD T: TBD T: TBD
Nursery	Debbie Brake Judy Jackson-Malina	Debbie Brake Jo-An Lattanzi	Debbie Brake Laurel Burns	Debbie Brake Jane Cauthen	Debbie Brake Danelle Blackwell
Preacher	The Ven Brenda Gilbert	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin
Flowers	Marilyn Almcrantz: Celebrating Marquee's Birthday Judy Jackson-Malina: In celebration of St. Marks clergy and parishioners	Sarah Reidy-Jones: In celebration of Ethan Jones' baptism and in memory of Barbara Reidy on her heavenly birthday today		Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship
Altar Guild	Richard Martinez Pat Spezialetti	Mary Fitzgerald Gloria Bull	Bev Bieker	Mary Stamey Penny Barker	Pat Townsend
Coffee Hour	Youth Group	Sarah Reidy-Jones	Donnie & Laurel Carpenter	Suzie Whatley	Available for Sponsorship
Vestry Lock-Up	Marilyn Walters	Marilyn Walters	Marilyn Walters	Marilyn Walters	Marilyn Walters

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*