

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

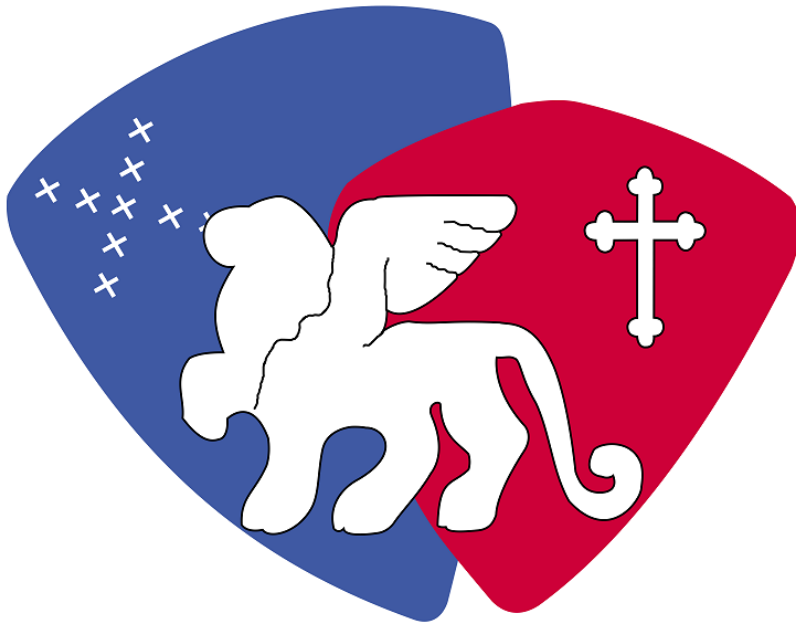
Our Vision:

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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

July 26, 2026, 9:30 AM

Prelude

Processional Hymn Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart Hymnal pg. 488

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
People Amen.

The Old Testament Genesis 29:15-28 Judy Jackson-Malina

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

Judy Jackson-Malina

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
 make known his deeds among the peoples.
 - 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
 and speak of all his marvelous works.
 - 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
 let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
 - 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
 continually seek his face.
 - 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
 his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
 - 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
 O children of Jacob his chosen.
 - 7 He is the LORD our God; *
 his judgments prevail in all the world.
 - 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
 the promise he made for a thousand generations:
 - 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
 the oath that he swore to Isaac,
 - 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
 an everlasting covenant for Israel,
 - 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
 to be your allotted inheritance."
- 45b Hallelujah!

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn Take My Life and Let it Be Consecrated Hymnal pg. 707

The Gospel **Matthew 13:31-33,44-52**

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 358

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

Pat Townsend

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 Anglican Church of Tanzania.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. James in Black Mountain, St. James in Hendersonville, and St. James in Lenoir.

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”

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:

Now the Silence **Hymnal pg. 333**

I Am the Bread of Life **Hymnal pg. 335**

Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus **Hymnal pg. 336**

Post Communion Prayer **BCP pg. 365**

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn **God of Grace and God of Glory** **Hymnal pg. 594**

Dismissal

Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
And in thanksgiving to God for the blessing of families by Eileen Klimkowski*

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.

Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke as our guest Preacher and Celebrant this morning!

Born in Memphis, TN and raised across the river in northeast Arkansas, the Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke is a priest in the Diocese of North Carolina now living in Charlotte. Before he retired, Hoke served as Executive Assistant to the Rector of Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City and Missioner to St Paul's Chapel at Ground Zero. A graduate of SMU in Dallas, the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, MA, and ordained in 1972, Hoke served congregations in Arkansas and Texas. In 1996, he completed the Master of Sacred Theology degree at New York's General Theological Seminary, and was awarded the Doctor of Theology degree in the spring of 2000.

Dr. Hoke is a frequent retreat conductor and preacher throughout the Episcopal Church. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at the General Seminary where he pioneered courses on the pastor's role in the treatment of alcoholism and addictive illness. Since moving to North Carolina, Hoke has continued to work as a supply priest throughout the state. He also travels frequently, reads voraciously, plays piano and learns Spanish. Stuart is the father of two sons—one in Raleigh and the other in Charlotte—and two young granddaughters.

Welcome home to St. Mark's Dr. Hoke!

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.

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*)

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!*

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 offer will be deeply appreciated.

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 26 Miracles of Jesus

Thursdays, 12 noon – 1 pm

Aug 6th – Oct 29th, 2026 at St. Mark's

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.

This DVD teaching series, hosted by Eileen Klimkowski, is led by two retired Episcopal priests.



**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>

