

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

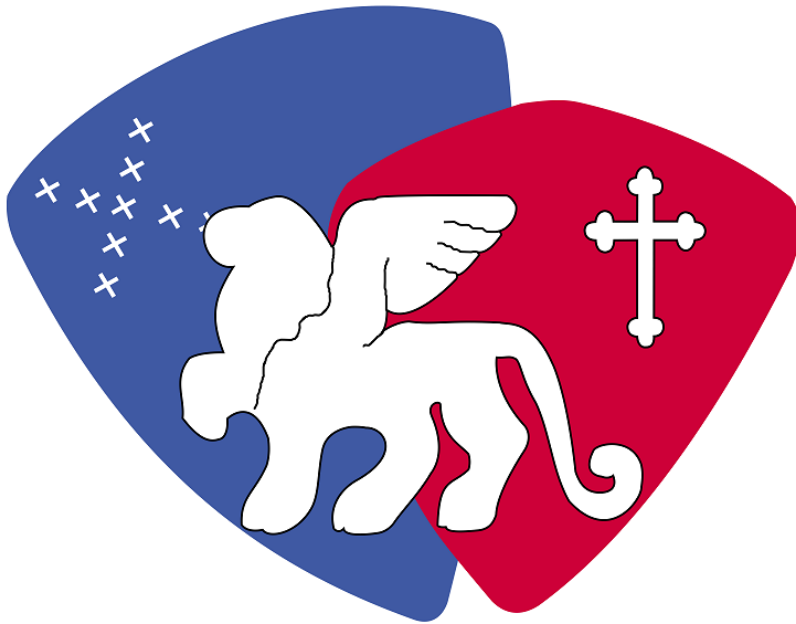
Our Vision:

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 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

August 16, 2026, 9:30 AM

Prelude

Processional Hymn **“In Christ There is No East or West”** **LEV pg. 62**

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**

The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The Old Testament **Genesis 45:1-15** Rachel Varriale

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed,

or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 133

Rachel Varriale

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
 when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
 that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
 and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
 that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
 life for evermore.

The New Testament

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Richard Martinez

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn “We the Lord’s People” Hymnal pg. 51

The Gospel Matthew 15: 10-28

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

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

The Prayers of the People; Form IV (BCP pg. 388)

Richard Martinez

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: We commend to your **our** mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church in Wales.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for all students, faculty & staff returning to school; College and Campus Ministries at Appalachian State University; Western Carolina University; University of North Carolina in Asheville.

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 those who serve on our Rector Search Committee, and 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

“Aria”

Johann Kuhnau

The Presentation Hymn:

**“The Doxology”
(vs. 3)**

Hymnal pg. 380

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:

“Break Thou the Bread of Life” LEV pg. 146

“In Remembrance of Me” LEV pg. 149

“Let Us Break Bread Together” LEV pg. 152

Post Communion Prayer BCP pg. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” LEV pg. 99

Dismissal

Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Ethel Iyamide Cole by Gloria Bull and
in loving memory of Gene Maloney by Judith Maloney.*

Announcements

Clothing Closet Needs

Our Clothing Closet has a few 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 XL (1X)	Men's Sneakers
Drawstring Shorts Sweatpants T-shirts*	Drawstring Shorts Sweatpants T-shirts*	Sweatpants T-shirts*	Hoodies T-shirts*	All sizes
Women's Small	Women's Medium	Women's Large		
Pants/shorts T-shirts*	Pants/shorts T-shirts*	Pants/shorts		

**any color except white, please.*

Opportunities to Serve

Are you interested in possibly serving as a **Lector** and/or leader of the *Prayers of the People* on Sunday mornings? Or perhaps, just receiving a “refresher” in presenting such ministries? Or, how about leading an **Adult Bible Study** or presenting a timely **topic of interest** during our **Adult Christian Education** hour (scheduled to start September 20)? If any of these ministries pique your interest, or for more information, please speak directly with Fr. Allan.

Diocesan Bishop Search Survey Now Available

The diocesan Bishop Search Committee has prepared an online survey soliciting parishioner input on what you perceive is needed in our next bishop, provide feedback on diocesan programs and focus, and share our desires for The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western North Carolina. This is an excellent opportunity to let your voice be heard and taken into consideration. The window for submitting your completed survey is August 2nd through August 30th.

To receive the survey, you ***must subscribe online to*** the Diocesan Weekly E-News, “Along the Way.” Please use the QR Code or following link to sign up: <https://www.diocesewnc.org/newsletter>



Vestry Opportunities

With our Rector Search Committee fully formed, commissioned, and beginning their discernment process, we are also eager to identify members of our parish community who would be willing to serve on Vestry, beginning with a mid-term seat this year. As we continue through this season of transition, strong and engaged leadership matters more than ever. If you feel called to serve, or know someone who might be, please reach out to any member of the Vestry.

Are You Receiving St. Mark's E-blast Notifications?

If you are not receiving the St. Mark's E-blast notifications, please reach out to the office, because we want everyone to be included in our communications.

Stewardship Summer Reminder

As many of us are in and out during the summer, our giving tends to slow down. Remembering St. Mark's in your summer stewardship helps us maintain the week-to-week activities that keep our church going, and the work that support our parish and community. We're grateful for your faithfulness in every season.

Mid-Year Giving Status

In light of the mid-year update shared earlier via the e-blast, if you'd like to check your 2026 giving status, please reach out to the office. Dionne will be glad to provide that information.



8:00 & 10:30 Services Returning

Our worship services will be returning to two Sunday services starting Sept 13th. Rite I at 8:00 am and Rite II at 10:30 am. Christian Education hour follows the 8:00 am service. Please mark your calendars.



Healing Service Ministry

A reminder that 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.

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.

Community Garden



Thanks to Travis and a dedicated Saturday crew, the All Saints garden looks as beautiful and is as fruitful as ever. To keep the beds healthy and growing, we could use a few extra hands. Watering and light weeding are the main needs at the moment.

If you're free for a few minutes between 8:00 and 10:00 AM on a Saturday, contact the office or Travis Johnson to join in.

SCHEDULE FOR LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS – AUGUST 2026

	August 2 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 9 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 16 10 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 23 11 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 30 12 th Sunday after Pentecost
Lay Reader 9:30 AM	OT: Linda Galda Ps: Linda Galda NT: Donna Dillon Prayers: Ed Galda	OT: Barbara Hartsell Ps: Barbara Hartsell NT: George Sowersby Prayers: George Sowersby	OT: Rachel Varriale Ps: Rachel Varriale NT: Richard Martinez Prayers: Nancy Byers	OT: Fran Henderson Ps: Fran Henderson NT: Yolanda Laine Prayers: Pete Laine	OT: John Watts Ps: John Watts NT: Judith Maloney Prayers: Shay Matthews
Ushers	Chappell Harris Marilyn Walters	Jessie Paradise Nancy Byers	Hyce Bull George Sowersby	Bob Ridgeway Chappell Harris	Blaine Rudisill Cookie Rudisill
Greeters	John Fitzgerald Mary Fitzgerald	Anna Carsner Richard Carsner	Patti Tamberella Mike Tamberella	Fe McLaughlin Tim McLaughlin	Danelle Blackwell Susan Sowersby
Acolytes	C: Jake Barner G: Natalie Johnson	C: Alex Griffin G: Emma Kate Griffin	C: Tucker Doynne G:	C: G: Ethan Jones	C: Mason McCarey G: Nora Johnson
Nursery		Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake
Preacher	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin
Flowers	Bev Ipock	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	Ann Ward
Altar Guild	Richard Martinez Pat Spetzaletti	Bev Bieker	Gloria Bull Mary Stamey	Yolanda Laine Pat Towsend	Mary Fitzgerald Penny Barker
Coffee Hour	Fe & Tim McLaughlin	Fe & Tim McLaughlin	TBD	TBD	TBD
Vestry Lock-Up	George Sowersby	George Sowersby	George Sowersby	George Sowersby	George Sowersby

To Our Guests

Welcome Home to St. Mark's!

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.

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>

