

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

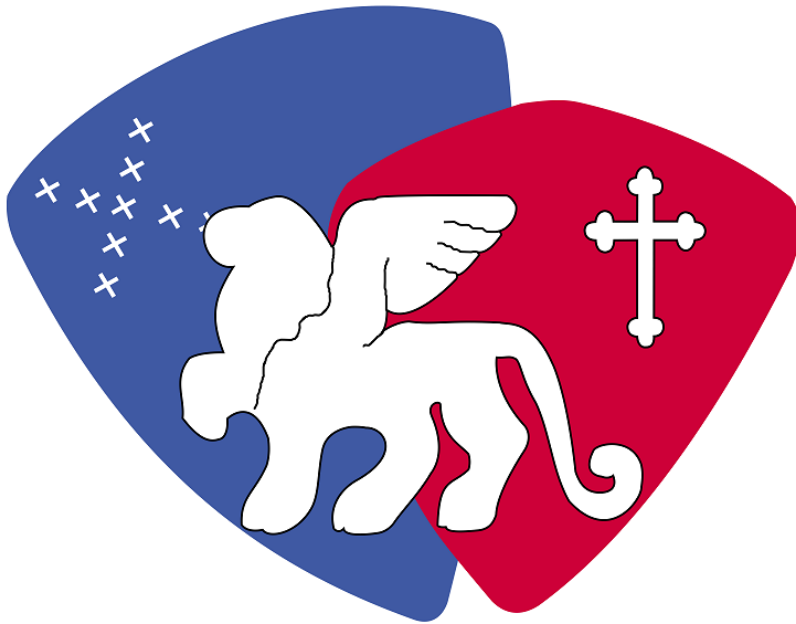
Our Vision:

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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www.stmarksgastonia.org

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



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.

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

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The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

September 6, 2026, 9:30 AM

Prelude

Processional Hymn “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” Hymnal pg. 174

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. BCP pg. 323

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

The Collect for Purity

Gloria (S 280) BCP pg. 324

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through 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

Exodus 12:1-14

Dale Ward

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night;

they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 149

Dale Ward

- 1 Hallelujah!
Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn “God is Love, and where True Love is” Hymnal pg. 577

The Gospel

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

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 326

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence is kept.

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader: For Donald, our President; for Josh, our Governor; for all elected officials;
for this community, the nation, and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader: We pray for those who have asked for prayers, for those in harm's way, for
the unemployed, the lonely, for those who are sick, or in need, and for all
who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Episcopal /Anglican
Province of Alexandria.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Giles Chapel, and residents
and staff of Deerfield Retirement Community, Asheville.

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader: For Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop: and
for all bishops and other ministers;

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

We pray for those who travel this week.

We pray for our Rector Search Committee as they gather for a time of
prayer, study, and instruction this afternoon.

I invite your prayers of intercession either silently or aloud.

The People add their own petitions.

Leader: Hear us, Lord;

People: For your mercy is great.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Leader: We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week; and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries.

We give thanks for those who serve on the Altar Guild, and for all the ministries and activities of this parish, and pray God's continued blessing on all who partake of, or serve in them.

Leader: I invite your prayers of thanksgiving either silently or aloud.

The People add their own thanksgivings.

Leader: We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader: We pray for _____, (and) all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

Leader: And on this Labor Day weekend we most earnestly pray:

Almighty God, who has so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

The Confession of Sin: *(Prayed by all present)*

BCP 393

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Priest pronounces Absolution.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

(Please greet each other in the name of Christ)

Announcements with:

Birthday Prayer

BCP pg. 830

Anniversary Prayer

BCP pg. 431

Offertory

The Presentation Hymn:

“The Doxology” (vs. 3)

Hymnal pg. 380

Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP pg. 333

Sanctus

Hymnal S 129

The Lord's Prayer

BCP pg. 336

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 Prayer of Humble Access

BCP pg. 337

The Ministration of Communion

During communion, or after the service, the chapel is open for intercessory prayer, with Steve Thomas serving as intercessor.

Communion Hymns

Father, We Thank You Who Hast Planted

Hymnal pg. 302

Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

Hymnal pg. 313

Humbly I Adore Thee, Verity Unseen

Hymnal pg. 314

Post Communion Prayer

BCP pg. 339

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Hymnal pg. 376

Dismissal

Postlude

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of K and Dolly Humbert and Perry and Woods Carriel by Anne and Jim Carriel.

Announcements

TODAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

“Coffee Hour with a Purpose: Blessing Bags”

All are invited and encouraged to gather in the Parish Hall for Coffee and Fellowship in the parish hall after services this morning as we assemble **400 Blessing Bags**. This annual event is a fun, easy way to serve together—see you there!

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

“HOMECOMING SUNDAY”

8:00 am & 10:30 am Worship Services Return!

We are delighted to announce the return of our former weekly worship services schedule as follows:

Rite I at 8:00 am & Rite II at 10:30 am.

Also, as September 13th is “**Homecoming Sunday**”. Special prayers and commissioning of our Acolytes, Crucifers, and Gospelers will take place at the 10:30 am service.

A Barbeque Luncheon in the Parish Hall follows the 10:30 service.

(Note: Christian Education Classes will follow the 8 am service starting September 20th.) Please mark your calendars.



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Coffee hour that follows our worship services is an opportunity for folks to enjoy fellowship together. We need volunteers to set up (and take down) our serving table, and prepare and provide beverages and snack items after each service. Nothing elaborate is needed, but rather, just providing an opportunity to get to know one another. **Please contact Fe McLaughlin or Suzie Whatley to volunteer or for more information.**

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
-Drawstring Shorts -Lightweight Sweatpants -T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	-Drawstring Shorts -Lightweight Sweatpants -T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	-Drawstring Shorts -Lightweight Sweatpants -T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	-T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	All sizes

**any color except white, please.*

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.

The 26 Miracles of Jesus **Thursdays, 12 noon – 1 pm**

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 Update

Thanks to Travis and a dedicated Saturday crew, the All Saints garden is as fruitful as ever. To harvest “our crops” and keep the beds healthy and growing, we could use a few extra hands. Picking, watering and light weeding are the main needs. If you’re free for a few minutes during the week or between 8:00 and 10:00 am on Saturdays, contact the office of Travis Johnson to join in. Thank you!

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

	September 6 15 th Sunday after Pentecost	September 13 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	September 20 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	September 27 18 th Sunday after Pentecost
Lay Reader 8:00 AM		Judy Jackson-Malina	George Sowersby	Judith Maloney
Lay Reader 10:30 AM	OT: Dale Ward Ps: Dale Ward NT: MG Shockley Prayers: MG Shockley	OT: Heather Griffin Ps: Heather Griffin NT: Elizabeth Whitford Prayers: Elizabeth Whitford	OT: Judith Maloney Ps: Barabara Hartsell NT: Bonnie Kieffer Prayers: Yolanda Laine	OT: Omar DeCastro Ps: Omar DeCastro NT: Heanzone DeCastro Prayers: Heanzone DeCastro
Ushers	Walter Hobbs Nancy Byers	Steve Campbell Bob Ridgeway	Hyce Bull George Sowersby	Walter Hobbs Chappell Harris
Greeters	Bev Bieker TBD	Anna Carsner Richard Carsner	Patti Tamberella Mike Tamberella	Nancy Byers Susan Sowersby
Acolytes	C: Jake Barner G: Natalie Johnson	C: Jack Carsner G: Ella Carsner T: Ethan Jones T: Millie Lampke	C: Alex Griffin G: Emma Kate Griffin T: Mason McCarey T: Tucker Doyne	C: Kenya Pond G: Nora Johnson T: Natalie Johnson T: Kenslie DeCastro
Nursery	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake
Preacher	Deacon Cathy Wesson	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin	Fr. McCaslin
Flowers	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	Marilyn Almcraantz - Celebrating the birthdays of Jennifer and JoJo e for Sponsorship	Pan McCaslin - Anniversary of Father Allan's ordination to the Priesthood.
Altar Guild	Bev Bieker	Kenna Watts Anna Smith	Mary Barker	Richard Martinez Pat Spezialetti
Coffee Hour	Patti & Mike Tamberall	Pan McCaslin Holly Mason	Patti & Mike Tamberella	Judy Jackson-Malina
Vestry Lock-Up	Judy Jackson-Malina	Judy Jackson-Malina	Judy Jackson-Malina	Judy Jackson-Malina

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. 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>

