

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

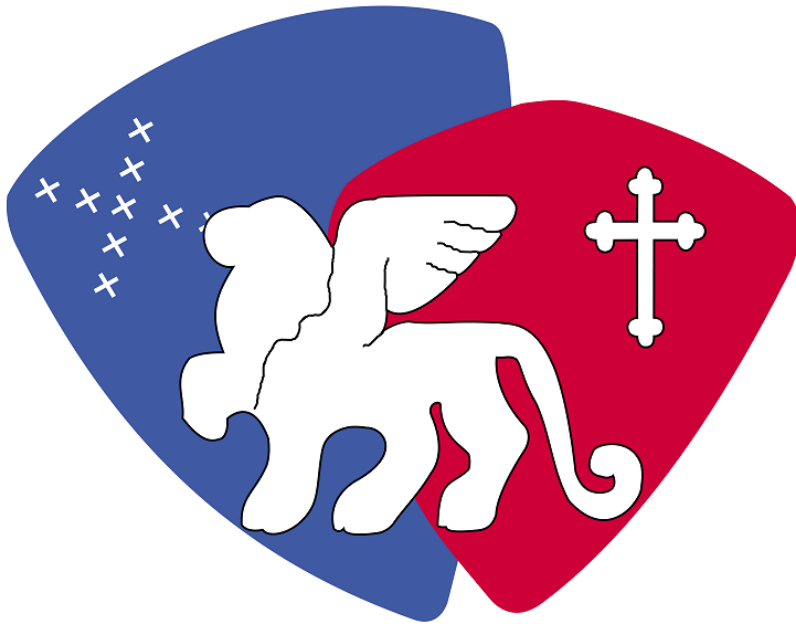
Our Vision:

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

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.

Copyright authorization for the Concelebration text at the Communion has been granted under OneLicense.net License # A-707862 and for Online broadcast under License # A-715469.

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, October 4, 2026 – 10:30 AM

The Word of God

Prelude:

The Processional Hymn: “How Firm a Foundation”

Hymnal pg. 637

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.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who 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 Old Testament:

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

The New Testament:

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn: “Thou Whose Almighty Word”

Hymnal pg. 371

The Holy Gospel:

Matthew 21:33-46

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

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a

people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon:

The Rev. John Rice

A time for silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed:

BCP pg. 358

The Prayers of the People: Form I

BCP pg. 383

Leader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying
"Lord, have mercy."

Leader: For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the
salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and
for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop: for all
bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil and for our diocesan
Ecumenical relationships, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let
us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them,
let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Rosie Dedrick, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: In the communion of Saint Mark, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People: *To thee, O Lord our God.*

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 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

Minute for Mission: Stewardship Presentation

Offertory

The Presentation Hymn:

**“The Doxology”
(vs. 3)**

Hymnal pg. 380

Liturgy of the Table

This morning’s observance of the Holy Eucharist engages both congregation and celebrant in a concelebration with gentle antiphonal chant accompanied by guitar.

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP pg. 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so, with all the choirs of heaven and earth, we stand before you, as an unending song of praise:

Celebrant: Holy, Holy Lord.

People: **Holy, Holy Lord.**

Celebrant: God of power and might, Holy Lord.

People: **God of power and might, Holy Lord.**

All Present: **The heavens, the earth, Holy Lord,
Are full of your glory, O Lord.
Holy, Holy Lord.**

Celebrant: Hosanna, Hosanna!

People: **Hosanna, Hosanna! (repeat)**

Celebrant: Blessed is He, Holy Lord.

People: **Blessed is He, Holy Lord.**

Celebrant: Who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Who comes in the name of the Lord.**

All Present: **The heavens, the earth, Holy Lord,
Are full of your glory, O Lord.
Holy, Holy Lord.**

All kneel as they are able.

Celebrant: On the night before He died,

People: **On the night before He died,**

Celebrant: He took bread into his hands,

People: **He took bread into his hands,**

Celebrant: broke the bread and said the thanks,

People: **broke the bread and said the thanks,**

Celebrant: gave it to His friends and said:

People: **gave it to His friends and said:**

Celebrant: Take and eat,

People: **Take and eat,**

Celebrant: This is my body,

People: **This is my body,**

Celebrant: Given up for you.

All present: **Holy, Holy, Lord. Holy, Holy, Lord.
The heavens, the earth, Holy Lord,
Are full of your glory, O Lord.
Holy, Holy Lord.**

Celebrant: And when the meal was over,

People: **And when the meal was over,**

Celebrant: He took the cup into his hands,

People: **He took the cup into his hands,**

Celebrant: said the prayer of thanks and praise,

People: **said the prayer of thanks and praise,**

Celebrant: gave it to His friends and said:

People: **gave it to His friends and said:**

Celebrant: Take and drink,

People: **Take and drink,**

Celebrant: this is my blood, my blood,

People: **this is my blood, my blood,**

Celebrant: given up for you.

Celebrant: Do this to remember me. Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All Present: **Christ, you have died, Holy Lord.**

Christ, you arise, Holy Lord.

Christ, you are coming again,

Christ, Holy Lord, come again. (*repeat*)

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace, and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Celebrant: Through Him, with Him and in Him,

People: **Through Him, with Him and in Him,**

Celebrant: in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

People: **in the unity of the Holy Spirit,**

Celebrant: all glory and honor,

People: **all glory and honor,**

Celebrant: is yours, almighty Father,

People: **is yours, almighty Father,**

Celebrant: forever and ever,

People: **forever and ever,**

Celebrant: forever and ever,

People: **forever and ever,**

All Present: **forever and ever -**

Amen, amen, Holy Lord.

Amen, amen, Holy Lord.

Alleluia, amen,

Alleluia, amen.

Amen, Holy Lord, amen.

Amen, Holy Lord, amen.

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:

“Bread of the World”

Hymnal pg. 301

“Father, We Thank Thee Who Hast Planted”

Hymnal pg. 302

“Strengthen for Service, Lord”

Hymnal pg. 312

Post Communion Prayer:

BCP pg. 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as
living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in
the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to
love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

“The God of Abraham, Praise”

Hymnal pg. 401

Dismissal

Postlude

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

Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY REMINDERS

A reminder that St. Mark's now offers ongoing Christian Education and Nursery services on Sunday mornings as follows:

Children's Sunday School Program

Open to all children 5 years of age and older. Classes are held on the 2nd floor and gather around 9:15 am. At the conclusion of the class, children are encouraged to join their family and friends and attend the 10:30 am worship service. See Steve Thomas for information.

Children's Chapel Program

Following the opening hymn, salutation, Gloria, and Collect of the Day, all children are encouraged to participate in our Children's Chapel program. Just follow the children's cross and journey upstairs for their own unique worship service. The children will return to the Sanctuary during the Peace and are welcome to participate in Holy Communion.

St. Mark's Nursery

St. Mark's Nursery is open on Sunday mornings for children under 5 years of age. Volunteers are always welcome to help out. Contact Debbie Brake for more information.

Adult Christian Education (A.C.E.)

Gathering in the Balthis Room at 9:15 am, we offer a variety of opportunities to grow in grace through scripture studies, book reviews, teaching series, and learning more about the whys and wherefores of our Episcopal Faith tradition and how we live our faith.

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.

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.*

SCHEDULE FOR LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS – OCTOBER 2026

	October 4 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	October 11 20 th Sunday after Pentecost	October 18 21 st Sunday after Pentecost	October 25 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost
Lay Reader 8:00 AM	Linda Galda	Fat Townsend	Bonnie Kieffer	Ed Galda
Lay Reader 10:30 AM	OT: Donna Dillon Fs: Donna Dillon NT: Eden Isbell Prayers: Eden Isbell	OT: Nancy Byers Fs: Nancy Byers NT: Joe Bieker Eden Isbell Joe Bieker	OT: Rachel Varriale Fs: Rachel Varriale NT: Pete Laine Eden Isbell Pete Laine	OT: Fran Henderson Fs: Fran Henderson NT: Richard Martinez Prayers: Richard Martinez
Ushers	Steve Campbell TBD	Blaine Rudisill Cookie Rudisill	Harvey Bull Steve Campbell	Bob Ridgeway Jessie Paradise
Greeters	Fe McLaughlin Tim McLaughlin	Danella Blackwell Jessie Paradise	Marilyn Walters Susan Sowersby	John Fitzgerald Mary Fitzgerald
Acolytes	C: Jessie Paradise G: Jake Barker T: Nathalie Johnson T: Millie Lampke	C: Tucker Doyne G: Kenslie DeCastro T: Jake Barker T: Kenya Pond	C: Alex Griffin G: Natalie Johnson T: Emma Kate Griffin T: Nora Johnson	C: Mason McCarey G: Millie Lampke T: Ella Carsner T: Jack Carsner
Nursery	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake
Preacher	John Rice	Fr. McCaslin	Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke	Fr. McCaslin
Flowers	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	In celebration of the anniversary of Joe & Bev Bieker	Available for Sponsorship
Altar Guild	Mary Grace Shockley	Mary Barker	Kenna Watts Anna Smith	Richard Martinez Pat Spezialetti
Coffee Hour	Marilyn & Penny	Available	Available	Available
Vestry Lock-Up	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

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>

