

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

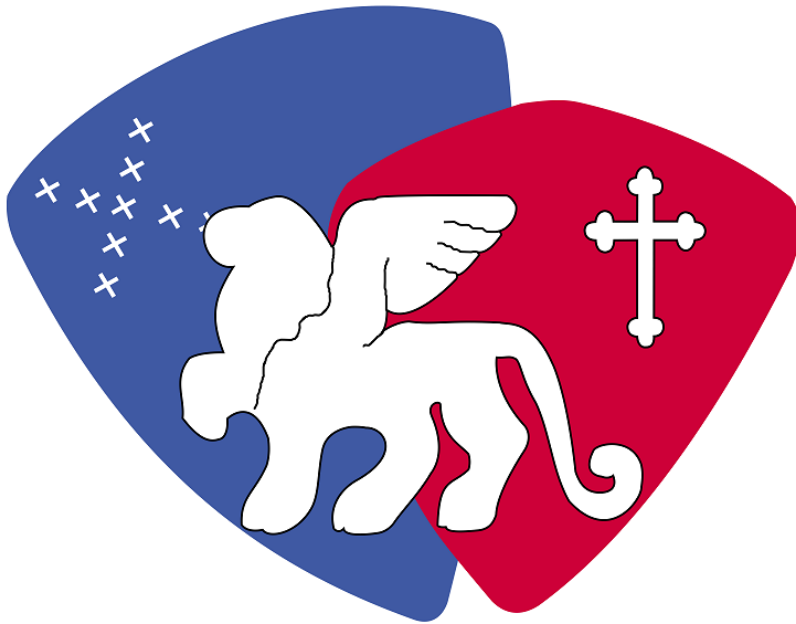
***Our Vision:***

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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## ***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](http://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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**Sequence Hymn: "The Summons". Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule; Tune: Arr. by John L. Bell; © 1987, WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Reprinted/Podcast/ Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net # A-715469. All rights reserved.**

# **The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

**August 30, 2026, 9:30 AM**

### **Prelude**

**Processional Hymn**      **“When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land”**      **Hymnal pg. 648**

### **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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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**      **Exodus 3:1-15**      John Watts

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations.

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God.*

## **The Psalm**

**Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c**

John Watts

- 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.

23 Israel came into Egypt, \*  
     and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.  
 24 The LORD made his people exceedingly fruitful; \*  
     he made them stronger than their enemies;  
 25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, \*  
     and dealt unjustly with his servants.  
 26 He sent Moses his servant, \*  
     and Aaron whom he had chosen.  
 45 Hallelujah!

## **The New Testament**

## **Romans 12:9-21**

Judith Maloney

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God.*

## **The Sequence Hymn**

## **"Will You Come and Follow Me"**

*See Back Page*

## **The Gospel**

## **Matthew 16:21-28**

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

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying,

“God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP pg. 358**

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

**Judith Maloney**

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** 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 the Province of the West Indies.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for All Saint's, Linville and Church of the Resurrection, Little Switzerland.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week, and for those celebrating their wedding anniversaries.

We give thanks for those who serve as Acolytes, Crucifers, and Gospelers, 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**

*(All stand)*

**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**

**“What Ere Our God Ordains”**

**Johann Pachelbel**

**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:**

**“I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord”**

**Hymnal pg. 304**

**“This is the Hour of Banquet and of Song”**

**Hymnal pg. 316**

**“Now the Silence, Now the Peace”**

**Hymnal pg. 333**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**BCP pg. 365**

**The Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn**

**“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”**

**Hymnal pg. 675**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

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

## Announcements

### ***Diocesan Bishop Search Survey Due TODAY!***

If you have not already done so, please be sure to complete the online diocesan survey. Today is your final opportunity to share your hopes and thoughts about our diocesan programs, as well as what skills you believe are needed in our next bishop.

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>



### ***Coffee Hour with a Purpose: Blessing Bags***

Join us for coffee and fellowship in the parish hall after service on ***September 6th*** as we assemble **400 Blessing Bags**. It’s a fun, easy way to serve together—see you there!

### ***Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!***

Coffee hour that follows our worship services is an opportunity for folks to enjoy fellowship together. ***To that end, we need your help!*** 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 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 Medium                                                                        | Men’s Large                                                                         | Men’s XL (1X)                                                                       | Men’s XXL (2X)                     | Men’s Sneakers |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| -Drawstring Shorts<br>-Lightweight Sweatpants<br>-T-shirts*<br>-Hoodies-lightweight | -Drawstring Shorts<br>-Lightweight Sweatpants<br>-T-shirts*<br>-Hoodies-lightweight | -Drawstring Shorts<br>-Lightweight Sweatpants<br>-T-shirts*<br>-Hoodies-lightweight | -T-shirts*<br>-Hoodies-lightweight | All sizes      |

*\*any color except white, please.*



## **8:00 & 10:30 Services Return September 13<sup>th</sup>**

Beginning September 13, two Sunday worship services will be offered. **Rite I at 8:00 am & Rite II at 10:30 am.** *(Christian Education Classes will follow the 8 am service starting September 20<sup>th</sup>.)* **Please mark your calendars.**



### ***Homecoming Celebration – September 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am***

In addition to the resumption of two worship services on Sunday mornings, September 13<sup>th</sup> has been designated as “Homecoming Sunday”. Special prayers and the commissioning of our Acolytes, Crucifers, and Gospellers will take place at the 10:30 am service.

### ***Lector, Prayers of the People & Christian Education Ministry***

Interested in serving as a **Lector** and/or leader of the *Prayers of the People* on Sunday mornings or in need of a “refresher? How about leading a **Bible Study** or presenting a timely **topic of interest** during our **Adult Christian Education** hour (scheduled to start September 20)? For more information, *please speak with Fr. Allan.*

### ***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**

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 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!

## *Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO)*

### **Progressive Dinner Event – Monday, September 21, 2026**

St. Mark's is honored to host the "*Appetizer Portion and Opening Organ Recital*" of this year's AGO Progressive Dinner.

**Appetizers will be served in our Parish Hall from 5:30 to 6:00 pm followed by an organ recital at 6:10 pm in St. Mark's Chancel featuring our former organist, David Wilcox.**

At the conclusion of the recital, participants will venture to 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist for Dinner and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Organ Recital (by Timothy Scruggs) before continuing on to 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist for Dessert and the final Organ Recital of the evening (by George Dent).

**Parishioners are welcome to attend the RECITAL here at St. Mark's at no charge.**

***Note: Those who wish to partake of any of the meal options (Appetizer, Dinner, and Dessert) may do so at a cost of \$35 per person. Interested "diners" must make a reservation and pay the meal fee in advance via the AGO website at: [Charlotteago.org](http://Charlotteago.org)***

### **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>          |

# Sequence Hymn: "The Summons"

John L. Bell

1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but  
 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but

call your name? Will you go where  
 call your name? Will you care for  
 call your name? Will you set the  
 call your name? Will you quell the  
 call my name. Let me turn and

you don't know And nev - er be the same?  
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?  
 pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?  
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?  
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, Will you  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, Should your  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do  
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your

let my name be known, Will you let my  
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me  
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to  
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and  
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and

life be grown In you and you in me?  
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?  
 what I mean In you and you in me?  
 touch and sound In you and you in me?  
 live and grow In you and you in me.