

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

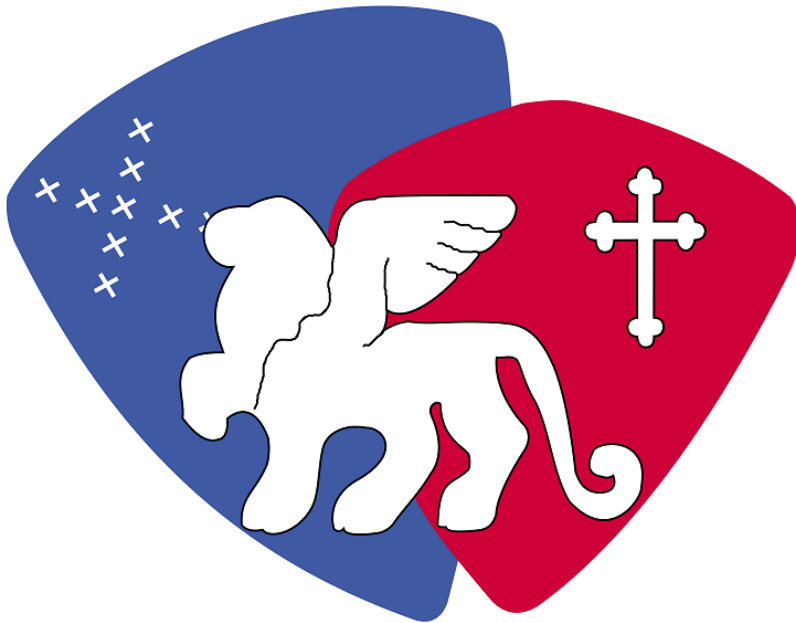
Our Vision:

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



***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.

The Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, October 18, 2026 – 10:30 AM
The Word of God

Prelude:

The Processional Hymn: “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty” Hymnal pg. 362

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, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 33:12-23**

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 99

- 1 The Lord is King;
 let the people tremble; *
 he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
 let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion; *
 he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
 he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice,
 you have established equity; *
 you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
 and fall down before his footstool; *
 he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
 and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
 they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
 they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; *
 you were a God who forgave them,
 yet punished them for their evil deeds.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

The New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn: “Love Divine All Loves Excelling” Hymnal pg. 657

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

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

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and

whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon:

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke

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 Anglican Church of Canada, for St. Luke's, Asheville, St. Luke's,
Boone, and St. Luke's, Lincolnton.

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 those who lead our Christian Education programs and all the ministries
of this parish, 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, 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 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” Hymnal pg. 380
(vs. 3)

Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B BCP pg. 367

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:

“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face” Hymnal pg. 318

“I Am the Bread of Life” Hymnal pg. 335

“Now the Silence, Now the Peace” Hymnal pg. 333

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
in celebration of Joe and Bev Bieker’s 32nd anniversary.*

Announcements

Stewardship Campaign

Our 2027 Stewardship Campaign is underway! Please watch your mailbox for your stewardship packet. Some letters may arrive separately. If you do not receive yours, please contact the church office.

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.

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.

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.

Caring Cupboard Needs

We have a few emergency needs for our Caring Cupboard ministry: Canned beans (no green beans please), boxes or cups of Mac and Cheese, Cheese/peanut butter crackers, and Beanie Weenies. Thank you!

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
-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	All sizes

** We ask that they not be white, as our guests tell us that colored shirts are much more practical and comfortable for them.*

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	Pat Townsend	Bonnie Kieffer	Ed Galda
Lay Reader 10:30 AM	OT: Donna Dillon Ps: Donna Dillon NT: Eden Isbell Prayers: Eden Isbell	OT: Nancy Byers Ps: Nancy Byers NT: Joe Bieker Prayers: Joe Bieker	OT: Rachel Varriale Ps: Rachel Varriale NT: Pete Laine Prayers: Pete Laine	OT: Fran Henderson Ps: Fran Henderson NT: Richard Martinez Prayers: Richard Martinez
Ushers	Steve Campbell TBD	Blaine Rudisill Cookie Rudisill	Hycy Bull Steve Campbell	Bob Ridgeway Jessie Paradice
Greeters	Fe McLaughlin Tim McLaughlin	Danille Blackwell Jessie Paradice	Marilyn Walters Susan Sowersby	John Fitzgerald Mary Fitzgerald
Acolytes	C: Jessie Paradice G: Jake Barker T: Nathalie Johnson T: Millie Lampke	C: Tucker Doynne G: Kenslie DeCastro T: Jake Barker T: Kenya Pond	C: Alex Griffin G: Nathalie 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	In celebration of Ann & Dale Ward's 50 th wedding anniversary
Altar Guild	Mary Grace Shockley	Mary Barker	Kenna Watts Anna Smith	Richard Martinez Pat Spezialetti
Coffee Hour	Marilyn & Penny	Mike & Patti Tamberella	Available	Available
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. 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. Elizabeth Whitford, '28.....	<i>New Member</i>
Mr. Chappell Harris, '28	<i>New Member</i>
Ms. Dionne R. Browning.....	<i>Vestry Clerk</i>
Mr. Steve Campbell	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs. Kenna Watts.....	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>

