

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

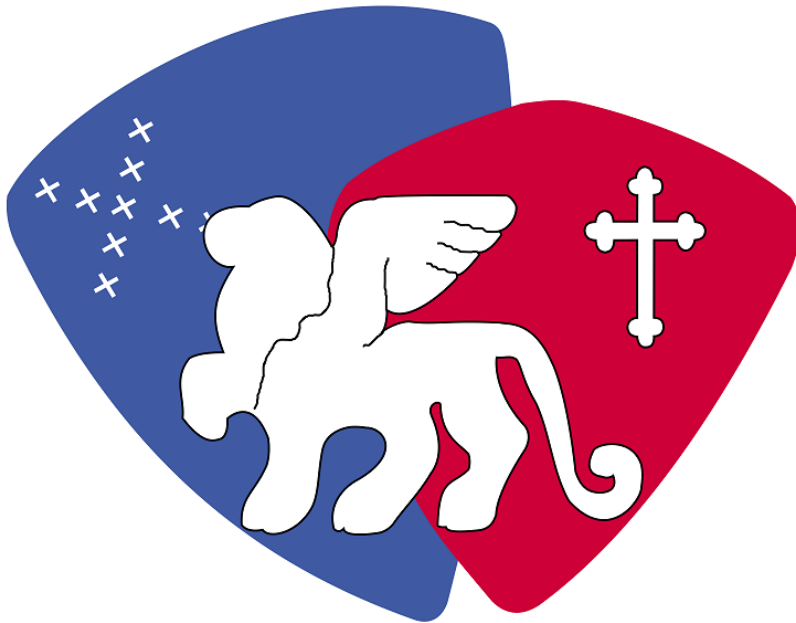
Our Vision:

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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The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

July 5, 2026, 9:30 AM

Prelude

Processional Hymn God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hands Hymnal pg. 718

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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 Genesis 24:34-38,42-49, 58-67 Mary Grace Shockley

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of

water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 45: 11-18

Mary Grace Shockley

- 11 “Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor.”

- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.
- 17 “In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever.”

The New Testament

Romans 7:15-25a

Joe Bieker

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

Hymnal pg. 636

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’”

Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

The Sermon

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 326

The Prayers of the People; Form III (BCP pg. 387)

Fran Henderson

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader: We pray for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Jose, our Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader: We pray for Donald, our President, Josh, our Governor, for our elected officials; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader: We pray for those who are in harm’s way, for those who have asked for prayers, for those who are sick, in sorrow, need, or any adversity. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader: Give to (_____ and to) all the departed eternal rest.

People: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

I invite your prayers of intercession either silently or aloud.

(The people add their own petitions)

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of South America.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for all Episcopal Chaplains serving the Armed Forces, VA Hospitals, and other organizations providing care for veterans.

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 all the ministries and activities of this parish, and pray that God will continue to bless all who partake of, or serve in them.

And on this Independence Day weekend, we most earnestly pray:

Almighty God, whose wisdom and love are over all, accept the prayers we offer for our nation. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Grant wisdom to those in authority that, in serving your people with integrity and in obedience to your will, harmony and justice may prevail to the honor of your Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP pg. 330

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

Presentation Hymn:

“The Doxology”

The 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 the Communion

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

Communion Hymns

Strengthen for Service, Lord

Hymnal pg. 312

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

Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

Hymnal pg. 344

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

To Our Guests

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.

Community Garden

Our regular garden crew works hard on Saturday mornings to keep the beds healthy and thriving, and they'd welcome a few extra hands. Watering and light weeding are the biggest needs right now. If you have a few minutes around **10:00 AM on a Saturday**, reach out to the office or to Travis Johnson to see how you can help.

Clothing Closet Needs

Our Clothing Closet has 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 Sneakers
Drawstring Shorts Hoodies Sweatpants Shirts		Drawstring Shorts Sweatshirts Sweatpants Hoodies	Sweatshirts Hoodies	All sizes

The Daughters of the King



Our Chapter of *The Daughters of the King* is looking for women who are interested in becoming a member of this treasured prayer ministry here at St. Mark's.

For information, please, contact Bonnie Kieffer at bkieffer2665@gmail.com or any member of the D.O.K. (*we'll be wearing a Cross of the Order*)

Healing Service Ministry

A reminder that our **Healing Service Ministry** continues on **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.



Vacation Bible School at All Saints Saturday July 18, 2026 9am-2pm

All Saints Episcopal Church is hosting this year's VBS program on Saturday, Jul 18th for rising 1st - 6th graders. The theme is "Jesus is my Rock."

Need more information?

Please, call **All Saints** or email **The Rev. Tara Bartal** at: **704-864-7102**.

Volunteers are welcome and encouraged. Thank you for your support !

Second Helping Pantry

Life happens... When it does, our Second Helping Pantry is here for you! Located on the second floor, last room on the left (on east end), it's quietly stocked with food and a few essentials, available to whoever may need just a bit of extra support along the way. Please feel free to take what would be helpful.

Caring Cupboard



Thank you! We are deeply grateful for the many donations that came in for our Caring Cupboard. Our shelves are restocked and we're ready to serve our neighbors!

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



**Register to attend via this QR
Code or visit the Parish website:
<https://www.stmarksgastonia.org/>**



As we near the end of our shared ministry with the Bishop José as our Diocesan Bishop, we would like to invite you to share in showing him our appreciation and love. There are two opportunities to contribute to this effort. We would love to send Bishop José into the next chapter of his ministry with a purse he and Laurel will be able to use as they see fit. Bishop José has also invited contributions to an in-gathering fund to match his pledge of \$150,000 to construct two or more new hermitages at the Valle Crusis Conference Center. Links to both invitations can be found in the weekly eblast, on our website or on the Diocesan website. We are deeply grateful for the ministry of Bishop José and for your generosity toward celebrating his leadership.

SCHEDULE FOR LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS – JULY 2026

	July 5 6 th Sunday after Pentecost	July 12 7 th Sunday after Pentecost	July 19 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	July 26 9 th Sunday after Pentecost
Lay Reader 9:30 AM	OT: Mary Grace Shockley Ps: Mary Grace Shockley NT: Joe Bieker Prayers: Fran Henderson	OT: Judith Maloney Ps: Judith Maloney NT: Joe Bieker Prayers: Heather Griffin	OT: Heanzlene DeCastro Ps: Heanzlene DeCastro NT: Omar DeCastro Prayers: Leslie Harris	OT: Judy Jackson-Malina Ps: Judy Jackson-Malina NT: Bonnie Kieffer Prayers: Pat Townsend
Ushers	Walter Hobbs Nancy Byers	Steve Campbell Bob Ridgeway	Bev Bieker Chappell Harris	Blaine Rudisill Cookie Rudisill
Greeters	Patti Tamberella Mike Tamberella	Fe McLaughlin Tim McLaughlin	Susan Sowersby Marilyn Walters	Danelle Blackwell Jessie Paradice
Acolytes	C: Joe Bieker G: Ethan Jones	C: Tucker Doyne G: Emma Kate Griffin	C: Kenya Pond G: Kenslie DeCastro	C: Ella Carsner G: Jack Carsner
Nursery		Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake
Preacher	Fr. R. Allan McCaslin	Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson	Fr. R. Allan McCaslin	Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke
Flowers	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship
Altar Guild	Bev Bieker Pat Townsend	Kenna Watts Anna Smith	Mary Barker	Mary Grace Shockley
Coffee Hour	Mike & Patti Tamberella	TBD	TBD	Mike & Patti Tamberella
Vestry Lock-Up	Eric Lampke	Eric Lampke	Eric Lampke	Eric Lampke

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin.....*Interim Priest*
 The Ven. Brenda M. Gilbert.....*Archdeacon, Dio. of Western NC*
 The Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson.....*Deacon*
 Ms. Dionne Browning.....*Business Administrator*
 Ms. Debbie Brake.....*Nursery*
 Ms. Beverly Bieker.....*Office Assistant*
 Mr. Kris Kiser.....*Church Sexton*

CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Mr. Eric Lampke, '27.....*Senior Warden, Bldgs-Grounds*
 Mrs. Judy Jackson Malina, '26.....*Junior Warden, Outreach*
 Dr. Blaine Rudisill, '26.....*Pastoral Care*
 Mrs. Suzanne Whatley, '25.....*Parish Life*
 Mrs. Fe McLaughlin, '26.....*Parish Life, Newcomers*
 Ms. Marilyn Walters, '26.....*In-reach*
 Mr. George Sowersby, '27.....*Buildings and Grounds*
 Mrs. Pat Townsend, '27.....*In-reach*
 Ms. Dionne R. Browning.....*Vestry Clerk*
 Mr. Steve Campbell.....*Treasurer*
 Mrs. Kenna Watts.....*Assistant Treasurer*

