

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

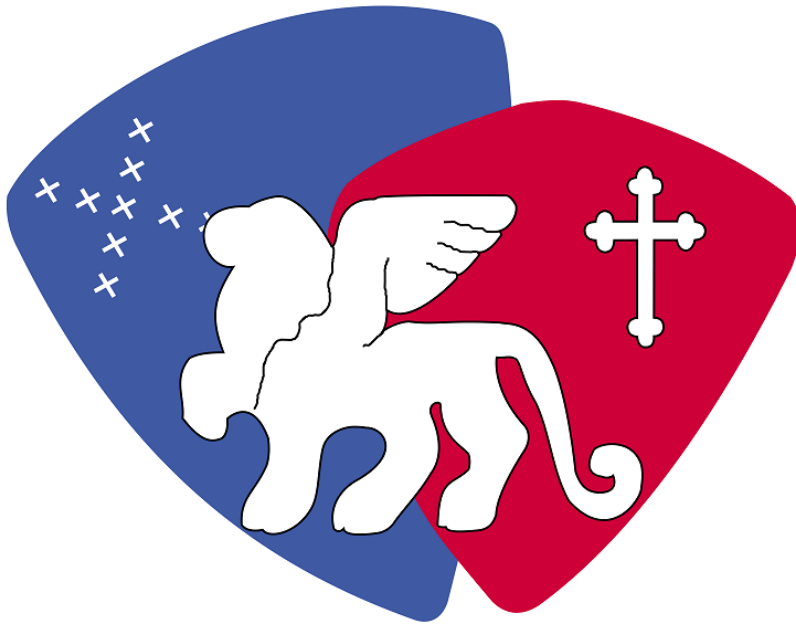
Our Vision:

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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, September 20, 2026 – 10:30 AM
The Word of God

Prelude:

The Processional Hymn: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” Hymnal pg. 470

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-277

The Collect of the Day:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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)

The Lessons

The Old Testament: Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who

brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

- 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.
- 37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

- 38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
- 40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
- 42 For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
- 44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
- 45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

The New Testament:

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” Hymnal pg. 423

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon:

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin

A time for silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed:

BCP pg. 358

The Prayers of the People: Form VI

BCP pg. 392

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 Anglican Church of Australia.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of the Messiah, Murphy.

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.

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 help prepare and distribute Blessing Bags, 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 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: 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 congregation is invited to be seated.

***A Service of Admission to The Order of the Daughters of the King
(See insert)***

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

The Presentation Hymn: **“The Doxology”**
(vs. 3)

Hymnal pg. 380

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:

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”

Hymnal pg. 334

“Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus”

Hymnal pg. 336

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

Hymnal pg. 344

Post Communion Prayer:

BCP pg. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Hymnal pg. 410

Dismissal

Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in celebrations of Jennifer and JoJo's birthdays by Marilyn Almcrantz.*

Announcements

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN TODAY

Christian Education Classes begin today at 9:15 for adults in the Balthis Room
and for children in an upstairs classroom.

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 at the moment.

If you're free for a few minutes during the week or between 8:00 and 10:00 am on a Saturday, contact the office or Travis Johnson to join in.

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.*

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 1st Methodist for Dinner and a 2nd Organ Recital (by Timothy Scruggs) before continuing on to 1st Baptist for Desert 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. Those who wish to partake of any of the meal options (Appetizer, Dinner, and Desert) 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

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>

