

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

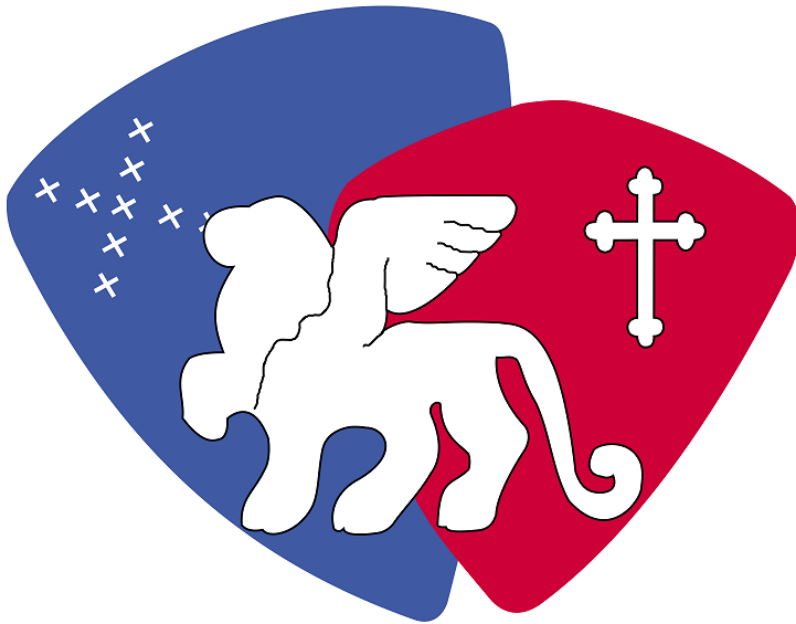
Our Vision:

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 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, October 11, 2026 – 10:30 AM

The Word of God

Prelude: “Allegro” Anonymous(18th Century)

The Processional Hymn: “Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart” Hymnal pg. 556

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.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.” They rose early the next day, and offered

burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

- 1 Hallelujah!
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?
- 3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!
- 4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;
- 5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

- 6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
- 19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;
- 20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
- 21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,
- 22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
- 23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

The New Testament: Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn: “Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”

Hymnal pg. 550

The Holy Gospel:

Matthew 22:1-14

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

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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 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 Burundi, for all Indigenous People and for the care of all creation, 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 those who serve in the Choir 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 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 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" Martin Luther, arranged by Johnson

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:

“I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord”

Hymnal pg. 304

“Humbly I Adore Thee, Verity Unseen”

Hymnal pg. 314

“This is the Hour of Banquet and of Song”

Hymnal pg. 316

Post Communion Prayer:

BCP pg. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

“In the Cross of Christ, I Glory”

Hymnal pg. 441

Dismissal

Postlude

“Toccata in E Minor”

Pachelbel

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

Announcements

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
-Lightweight Sweatpants -T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	-Lightweight Sweatpants -T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	-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	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 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 Doyna 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 Casner T: Jack Casner
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. Dionne R. Browning.....	<i>Vestry Clerk</i>
Mr. Steve Campbell	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs. Kenna Watts.....	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>

