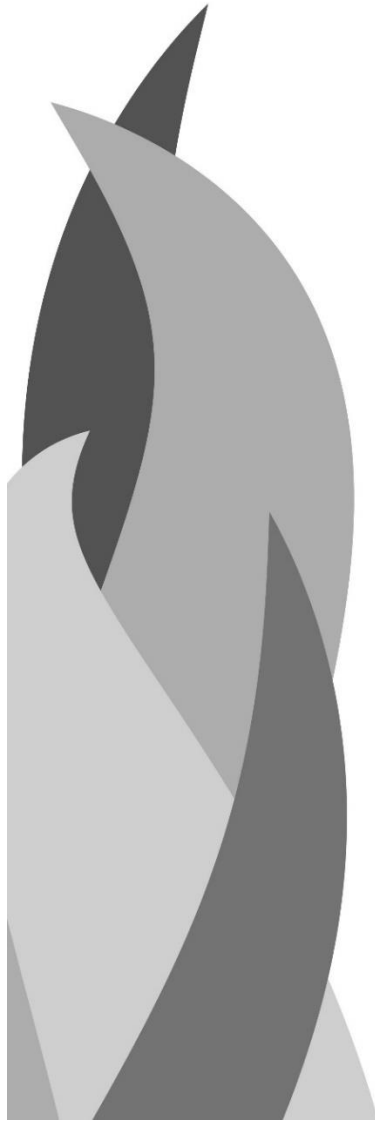


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
75 Cold Spring Road  
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*



THE  
HOLY  
SPIRIT  
FELL ON ALL  
WHO HEARD  
THE WORD.

ACTS 10:44, ESV

**May 5, 2024**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Rev. Melissa Buono, *Officiant*

Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*

Herb Elliot – *Chalice*

Rob Strain - *Usher*

Jenny Meanwell - *Lector*

**ENTRANCE HYMN** *All creatures of our God and King (Lasst uns erfreuen) (H 400)*  
*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**GLORIA S 277** *Glory to God (Hurd) (BCP p. 356)*

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Lessons**

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 98**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song, \*

for he has done marvelous things.

<sup>2</sup>With his right hand and his holy arm \*

has he won for himself the victory.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has made known his victory; \*

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

<sup>4</sup>He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

- <sup>5</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.  
<sup>6</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.  
<sup>7</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.  
<sup>8</sup>Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.  
<sup>9</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.  
<sup>10</sup>In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the First letter of John.

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## **SEQUENCE HYMN *Lord, whose love through humble service (Blaenhafren) (H 610)***

*All stand.*

## **GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*       The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

[Jesus said to his disciples,] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has

greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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

## THE SERMON

### THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

*All stand.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 359)**

*All remain standing.*

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

***That we all may be one.***

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

***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

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

***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest;

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

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

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

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

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON THE ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST**

*Let us pray for our own needs and others.*

Jennifer Hurley, Anna Oliverson, Kate, Fran Fletcher, Elizabeth, Kathryn Read, Evie and her family Beth, Brendan, and Corinne, Andrew Ward, Marcia & Ralph Regner, Jane, Lisa, Ben, Ross, Bonnie, Pamela, Bob, Brian Smith, Angela, Lorenz, Ovril, Margaret Bateman, James Martin, Ann, Cathy, Pam Hilton, Frank Hilton, Sherrie Carroll, Judy, Janet Farmer, Betty & Tom MacNamara, Brooke, Gertrude Meaden, Sandra, Charlotte, David Andrew, Sue Sweeney, Olivia, Sue, Doug Read, Daniel Corcoran.

This list is evaluated on a periodic basis; please contact Rev. Will or Herb Elliott if you have updates.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED**

Christopher Hemingway, Bernadette Snowdon, Stanley Vlasak, Marlene Marchilena.

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO WE HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR WHO  
HAVE HEALED OR GREATLY IMPROVED**

Don Parsons, Gill Dube

**PRAYER FOR THE PARISH** *(said by all)*

Almightly and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven  
And earth, hear our prayers for this Parish family. Strengthen  
the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent.  
Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring  
Us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE PRAYER OF TRANSITION**

*Read Responsively*

Assist us, Lord in living hopefully into the future. \*

**In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fears aside and to recognize our potential  
for creative response.**

Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by “the new” and to guard against  
our own defensiveness. \*

**Be with us as we remember to celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable  
yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in our time.**

All this we ask in the name of your Child, our Savior, Jesus Christ. \* **Amen**

**CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

**Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.**

**THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*           The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Holy Communion**

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*The Celebrant says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

*Psalm 50:14*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM (BCP p. 361)**

**THE DOXOLOGY V. 3 *From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th)* (H 380)**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant*           The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*           Lift up your hearts.

*People*               **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*               **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS: S-128**

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

**EPICLESIS (BCP p. 369)**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Celebrant*



**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

#### **FRACTION ANTHEM: ALLELUIA S - 155**

#### **INVITATION (BCP p. 364)**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

#### **DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

#### **COMMUNION HYMN *Let us break bread together on our knees (Let Us Break Bread)* (H 325)**

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;**

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**BLESSING (BCP p. 366)**

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN HYMN** *As those of old their first fruits brought (Forest Green) (H 705)*

**DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People*      **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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**Announcements**

**May 5th to May 12th**

*Sunday, May 5th*

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist - Rev. Melissa Buono

12:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Vestry Retreat. Scott and Judie's house.

*Thursday, May 9th*

10 a.m. – 5 p.m., St. Mark's office open

7:00 p.m. - Ascension Day Eucharist - Rev. William Bergmann

*Friday, May 10th*

9 a.m. – Friday Bible Study, Johnson's Restaurant

*Sunday, May 12th*

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist and Mother's Day - Rev. William Bergmann

**Join us to Celebrate Christ's Ascension on Thursday May 9th at 7 p.m.**

**Ascension Day** always falls on the fortieth day from Easter and always falls on a Thursday; it is also called "Holy Thursday." Ascension Day celebrates Christ's ascension to heaven and his exaltation. While on earth, he was a servant. Now in heaven, he is the ruler and Lord of all. By entering heaven as the representative of mankind, he completed the work of our salvation and guarantees the eventual glorification of all who love Him.

Just as Jesus went up in the clouds, he will return the same way as described in Chapter 1 of The Acts of Apostle.

*9 He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood*

*beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

This is the great hope of all Christians. For just as Jesus went into heaven, so will all people of Faith.

We will celebrate this important Feast day of the Church with a Holy Eucharist led by Rev. Bergmann at 7 p.m. at St. Marks.

### **The Westford Preschool at St. Mark’s Mac-n-Choose Fundraiser!**

Join WPSK to dine in or take out and support a great cause! Each purchase at Mac-n-Choose (Westford location) on May 9th from 11 am to 8 pm will include a 20% donation to the Westford Preschool. Visit [wpsk.org](http://wpsk.org) for more information.

### **Diocesan Bishop Search Update**

With the pending retirement of Bishop Alan Gates by the end of this year, a search is underway to replace him. A special convention is scheduled to elect the 17th bishop diocesan of the Diocese of Massachusetts on May 18. Profiles of the five candidates can be found here:

[Bishop Nominees | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts](#)

Several Meet-and-Greet sessions are scheduled around the diocese the week of May 6, including one via Zoom on Saturday, May 11. Details if these sessions can be found here:

[Meet-and-Greets with Bishop Nominees | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts](#)

The goal of the diocesan Standing Committee is to have the new bishop consecrated and ordained in October. We welcome any feedback that you may have on the candidates.

For further information, please contact our diocesan representatives, Paul Ackroyd or Mark Tremblay ([phackroyd@verizon.net](mailto:phackroyd@verizon.net) or [trembaly.mark.j@gmail.com](mailto:trembaly.mark.j@gmail.com)).

### **Faraja School in Tanzania**

During April and May, the funds collected in the Outreach box in the sanctuary will support the Africa-based Faraja Primary School and Foundation, which the Ellis family visited in February. More information about the Faraja School can be found at Faraja Primary School for Children with Physical Disabilities ([farajaschool.org](http://farajaschool.org)). Please contact Jean at [jean.m.ellis@comcast.net](mailto:jean.m.ellis@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

### **Steps to Home Walk**

Each year, a St. Mark’s team walks in the Steps to Home Walk on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 10 a.m.

This fun 5K walk through downtown Lowell is hosted by the Lowell Transitional Living Center and will kick off from 225 Middlesex St. Show your support by joining the team and/or sponsoring our walkers. The funds raised will be used for shelter, food, housing, and healthcare. To sign up, visit the website, click register or donate, select “join a team,” and then select “St. Mark’s Episcopal Church.” Money collected in the Outreach box at the altar each Sunday in June, July, and August will also go toward the walk. Questions? Email Joan O’Hare, Co-Chair, Outreach Committee. Thank you, Joan and Chrissy.

<https://smoc.org/service/lowell-transitional-living-center/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/LowellShelter/>

**St. Mark's News**

**Rector and St. Mark's Office Hours** - Typically, the office is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, Rev. Bergmann is in the office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule an office appointment, please email [secretary@st-mark.org](mailto:secretary@st-mark.org) or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting will be **Monday, June 10th**, at 7 p.m on Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton for a link if you would like to join.



**SENIOR WARDEN**

Scott Hilton, [wscotthilton@gmail.com](mailto:wscotthilton@gmail.com), Cell #: (978) 302-1088

**MINISTER OF MUSIC**

Lee Yezek: [lyezek@gmail.com](mailto:lyezek@gmail.com)

**VESTRY MEMBERS**

Tom Ellis, Jr. Warden; Joan O'Hare, Treasurer; Herb Elliott, Clerk; Paul Ackroyd, At-Large; Chrissy Hemingway, Pre-School Representative; Melissa Dewing, Dorothy Gaumer, Kris O'Reilly, Ellen Tremblay, At-Large.

St. Mark's Website: [www.st-mark.org](http://www.st-mark.org)

Email: [secretary@st-mark.org](mailto:secretary@st-mark.org)

Phone: (978) 692-7849

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford](https://www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford)

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