

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



... *from*
JESUS CHRIST
to him be
GLORY and DOMINION
forever and ever. Amen.

REVELATION 1:5-6, NRSV

April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter
Dr. Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Joan O'Hare - Usher
Mike O'Hare - Reader
Rob Strain - Chalice

Second Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE HYMN *This joyful Eastertide (Vruechten)* (H 192)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP 355)

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; 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 5:27-32

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁷When [the captain and the temple police] had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

PSALM: 118:14-29

Remain seated.

- ¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:
- ¹⁶“The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! *
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”
- ¹⁷I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the LORD.
- ¹⁸The LORD has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.
- ¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD; *
he who is righteous may enter.”
- ²¹I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.
- ²²The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³This is the LORD’s doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴On this day the LORD has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵Hosanna, LORD, hosanna! *
LORD, send us now success.
- ²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD; *
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- ²⁸“You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”
- ²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The people sit.

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom,

priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Jesus is Lord of all the earth [Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord]*
(Alleluia No. 1) (H 178)

All stand.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

All stand.

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

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

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this

book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

THE SERMON – REV. WILLIAM BERGMANN

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.

Ann Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Jack Winter, Deanna Teal, Ben, Bob, Orvil, Margaret Bateman, Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, Brian Smith, Jennifer and Kate, Kate and Susan, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Sandra, Charlotte and Bob, Ross, Angela, Lorenz, Michele Eberle, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Andrew Ward, Christine, Pam Mark, John Gallacher, Beth, Janet Andrews, Jim and Cheryl, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Sabrina and family, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Maria, Pat.

I ask your prayers for Ryan Bedard who is dying from cancer and for his Wife Victoria; for his Mother and Father, Julie and Todd; for his Brother ,Corey and his Wife, Isabell; and for his Sister, Chantal and her Husband, Julian.

We pray for that God will hold Ryan in His grace and mercy in this life, and receive Him into Eternal Life where there is pain or grief but only Everlasting Life and Glory. And grant that his family and all those who have known and loved him as a companion in this earthly journey that we all are knit together in one Communion and Fellowship in Your Son our Savior who lives and reigns in Glory, now and forever. Amen

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Betty MacNamara, Daniel Corcoran.

THANKSGIVING FOR HEALING

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH *(said by all)*

Almightily 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 PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	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.
Psalms 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.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. 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: *Good Christians all, rejoice and sing (Gelobt sei Gott)* (H 205)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Announcements

April 27th to May 4th

Sunday, April 27th

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

Thursday, May 1st

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: St. Mark's office open

7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 4th

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rev. Melissa Buono

11:30 a.m.: Muddy Sunday - bring your work clothes and tools

Support the Steps to Home Walk

This May, St. Mark's is proud to support the Lowell Transitional Living Center's 14th Annual Steps to Home Walk and Ice Cream Social—an inspiring community event that raises critical funds to support individuals transitioning from homelessness to stable housing.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025

Start Location: 193 Middlesex Street, Lowell, MA 01852

Walk Route: 5K through downtown Lowell

Finish Line Celebration: Ice Cream Social hosted by Dylan & Pete's Ice Cream

Last year, this event brought together more than 120 participants and raised over \$51,000. This year, LTLC hopes to raise \$55,000—and with your help, we can be part of that impact.

How You Can Help:

- Donate: Contribute to the Outreach Box in the church during the month of May.
- Join the Walk: Sign up and walk with us as part of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church team

To Register: Visit <https://www.classy.org/event/14th-annual-steps-to-home-walk/e666174>

Select "Register" → "Join a Team" → "St. Mark's Episcopal Church" → Choose the number of walkers in your group. Registration Fee: \$35 per participant

Let's come together as a parish to support this important cause. Every step makes a difference.

~Joan and Chrissy

Muddy Sunday, May 4 - come help beautify St. Marks!

Get your work shoes on and your rake ready. Join us immediately after coffee hour for a Muddy Sunday clean up of the church and the grounds (mulching, weeding, raking, and sweeping). All are welcome, there are jobs for everyone. If you can bring your own equipment, please do. For more information contact Paul Ackroyd (phackroyd@verizon.net) or Michael O'Hare (oharemichael@yahoo.com).

Easter Season Outreach box is going to the Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC)

The outreach box will be going to support the important mission of the LTLC which supports the unhoused and those in need of transitional support. [Lowell Transitional Living Center](#)

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunities

The next soup kitchen is on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**. We will be serving our popular meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, salad, dessert, bread, and milk. If you would like to be added to the sign-up for donations, email Paul Ackroyd at phackroyd@verizon.net. Drop-off is at St. Mark's (outside the admin wing - right-hand side of the building).

Episcopal City Mission - Season of Advocacy.

St. Marks has joined the Episcopal City Mission as we mobilize around key bills at the start of the MA legislative session, working to secure co-sponsors and build momentum.

Please reach out to Eric Kitner, Herb Elliott, or El Hilton for more information.

Our Priorities for this Season:

Apr 23–29: Rent Stabilization & Tenant Protections

Apr 30–May 6: Corporate Fair Share / Care Not Cuts

May 7–13: Immigrant Justice / Dignity Not Deportation

May 14–20: Reparations Commission

May 21–27: Bill Follow-Up

May 27–June 8: Meetings with Legislators

Together, we can protect our communities and push for justice at the state level!

Visit the ECM Website to Learn More

<https://www.episcopalcitymission.org/season-of-advocacy>

Week 1 Advocacy - Rent Stabilization and Protecting Tenants

Reach out to your State Representative or Senator and ask them to co-sponsor or support the proposed legislation (S.1447/H.2328). For more information and tools (Example emails, scripts for a voicemail...) check out this helpful toolkit -

<https://www.episcopalcitymission.org/advocacy-tool-kits>

Westford/Groton State Senator - John Cronin

Westford State Representative - James Arciedo

Groton State Representative - Margaret Scarsdale (current sponsor)

St. Mark's News

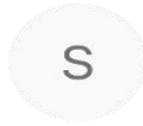
Office Hours - Irina and/or Rev. Bergmann will be in the office on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule an office appointment, please email secretary@st-mark.org or Rev. Bergmann at wcbrgm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting will be on **Monday, April 21st**, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton for a link if you would like to join.

Ongoing Ministries

St. Mark's Bible Study meets every other week on Wednesdays at a local restaurant to discuss the lectionary readings for the week. New members are welcome! If you'd like to join, e-mail Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com, and he will add you to the email distribution and send you the readings.

Pastoral Care: Want to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Just want to talk to a priest? Please email or call Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com or call 978-501-8479. Herb heads up our Pastoral Care team and can have you added to the prayer list, arrange for a Pastoral Care team member to give you a call, send a card, or organize other support. Herb also has contact information for local clergy who have offered to respond to Pastoral Care needs. You can also use the "Request Pastoral Visit" button on St. Mark's website.



St Mark's Episcopal Church
@stmark75



PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbgrm2n@gmail.com, 978-501-3393

SENIOR WARDEN

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

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS

Rob Strain (Jr. Warden), Joan O'Hare (Treasurer), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk),
Paul Ackroyd (At-Large), Chrissy Hemingway (Pre-School Representative),
Melissa Dewing, Kris O'Reilly, Brenda Martin, Mahiro Jilesen.

St. Mark's Website: www.st-mark.org

Email: secretary@st-mark.org

Phone: (978) 692-7849

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCecL-R4RICNJs0MsDmsJppQ>