

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



**December 28, 2025
First Sunday after Christmas**

*Rev. William Bergmann, Officiant
Lee Yezek, Minister of Music
Usher/ Reader: Brenda Martin
Chalice Bearer: Mary Pinto*

ENTRANCE HYMN: *The first Nowell the angel did say (The First Nowell) (H 109)*

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP 355)

GLORIA: S-277

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 147

Remain seated.

- ¹Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
 how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- ²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
 he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- ³He heals the brokenhearted *
 and binds up their wounds.
- ⁴He counts the number of the stars *
 and calls them all by their names.
- ⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
 there is no limit to his wisdom.
- ⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
 but casts the wicked to the ground.
- ⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
 make music to our God upon the harp.
- ⁸He covers the heavens with clouds *
 and prepares rain for the earth;
- ⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
 and green plants to serve mankind.
- ¹⁰He provides food for flocks and herds *
 and for the young ravens when they cry.
- ¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
 he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- ¹²But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
 in those who await his gracious favor.
- ¹³Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;
- ¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.
- ¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- ¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- ¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
- ¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
²¹He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia.

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

^{4:4}But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *It came upon the midnight clear (Carol)* (H 89)

All stand.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

All stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
<i>People</i>	Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Gospel of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	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 Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, Bishop Julia Whitworth, Rev. Will Bergmann, Rev.
Melissa Buono, and 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.

We pray in a special way for those on the St. Mark's Prayer List, namely:

**Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Kate and family, Ben, Bob, Orvil, Margaret
Bateman, Sara and family, Jim Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine,
and Kate, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Sandra, Charlotte
and Bob, Ross, Lorenz, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Doug and the Pecora family, Andrew
Ward, Christine, John Gallacher, Janet Andrews, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and**

Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Sabrina and family, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Ben Meaden, Albert Caproni and his family, Sherrie Carroll, Bob Berg, Beth and Carl, Judy and Barbara and Marlene, Karen, Dorothy, Maddie, David Edwards, Anika and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....(pause)

We pray for those who have died, especially:

Doug, Patrica Hughes, Andres Martinez, John Megson.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We give thanks for those who we have been praying for who have healed or greatly improved:

Michele Eberle, Dan.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom

Let us pray together the Prayer of the Parish:

Almighty & 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.

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

Silence

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.

<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.
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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him
of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

SANCTUS: S-128 Holy, Holy, Holy

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

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 [_____ and] 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: *S – 155 Alleluia*

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: *Come with us, O bless'd Jesus (Werde munter)* (H 336)

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: *Hark! the herald angels sing (Mendelssohn) (H 87)*

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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



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