

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



**December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve**

*Rev. William Bergmann, Officiant
Lee Yezek, Minister of Music
Usher: Ellen and Mark Tremblay
Readers: Mary Pinto and Sarah Pinto
Chalice Bearer: Sue Duran*

ENTRANCE HYMN: *O come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles)* (H 83)

PRAYER AT THE CRECHE PLACING THE INFANT JESUS

The people standing, the Celebrant says

<i>Celebrant</i>	Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
<i>People</i>	And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP 355)

GLORIA: *ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (GLORIA)* (H 96)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 96

Remain seated.

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
²Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
³Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
 he will judge the peoples with equity.”
¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
 before the LORD when he comes, *
 when he comes to judge the earth.
¹³He will judge the world with righteousness *
 and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Angels from the realms of glory (4) (Regent Square) (H 93)*

All stand.

All stand.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
 to Luke.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to

their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

<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.
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.
<i>People</i>	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: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming (Es ist ein Ros) (H 81)

Silent Night (3) (Stille Nacht) (H 111)

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: *Joy to the world! the Lord is come (Antioch)* (H 100)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

December 24st to December 28th

Wednesday, December 24th

4 p.m.: Christmas Eve family service!!! Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

Thursday, December 25th

Christmas Day - Church Office closed for Holiday 🌲 ☩

Sunday, December 28th

10 a.m.: 1st Sunday after Christmas, Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

Come Celebrate the Blessed Birth of Christ - Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m.

Come and join family, friends, and the whole body of the church as we celebrate the eve of Christ's birth. This family friendly service will be a joyful celebration of salvation and hope for all of humanity. The church will be decorated and the music will be playing starting at 4 p.m.

On this holy night, God causes the world to shine with the brightness of the true Light. The glory that filled the skies above Bethlehem now fills our hearts with joy and wonder. Having known the mystery of that Light on earth, we rejoice in the promise that we shall one day behold its fullness in heaven.

Save the Date: St. Mark's Annual Meeting Sunday, January 18, 2026

Please mark your calendars for St. Mark's Annual Meeting, which will take place immediately after services on Sunday, January 18. During the meeting, we will vote on new Vestry members, hear updates from our committees, review the budget, and celebrate our past year and the year ahead. A link to the meeting agenda and the Annual Report will be provided in the coming weeks.

We will also share a meal together. The Hospitality Committee will provide the entrée, and we are asking parishioners to bring potluck items for salads and desserts. If you would like to help, please contact Judie Hilton at familyministry@st-mark.org.

From Our ♥ Hearts to Yours: Thank You, St. Mark's

Dear Friends,

When we agreed to chair this year's stewardship campaign, we knew it would be meaningful work. What we didn't anticipate was just how moved we would be by your response.

We have crossed the \$100k mark, with countless stories of faith and generosity.

Behind every pledge is a story, a story of what St. Mark's means to you, how God is working in your life, and what you hope for our shared future. These stories have inspired us, challenged us, and reminded us why this community matters so much.

We've heard from long-time members who remember when the church building was dedicated in 1964. We've heard from newer families who are just beginning to write their St. Mark's story. We've heard from people of all ages and circumstances, each finding their own way to share their gifts.

To those who have pledged: Thank you. You've carried us over 91% of the way, and we are profoundly grateful.

To those still discerning: We invite you to join us in these final days. **We need \$9,9850 more** to reach \$110,000. Your pledge – whatever you can offer – completes the story we're telling together. Remember what Rev. Will asked us: *"What is your Good News: the idea, dream, challenge placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared?"*

Your pledge is your answer. It's how you tell out your soul.

Make your pledge today:

- **Online:** <https://www.st-mark.org/give/pages/stewardship>
- **Mail:** Send your card to the church office
- **In person:** Bring it to worship this Sunday
- **Questions?** Contact us anytime

With Love and Gratitude,

Mark and Ellen Tremblay
2025-2026 Stewardship Chairs

Outreach Box: Heating support for those in need this winter

The Sunday School has asked that we support a program that gives heating assistance to those in need. The Outreach committee will donate collected funds for the [Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund](#). This organization works with several local communities and utilities to help cover heating expenses for those who need help.

Make your voice heard. Weekly ICE Protests on Wednesdays

The grassroots organization Bearing Witness @ ICE (multiple links on Google) is continuing protests in front of the ICE detention center in Burlington (immediately behind the Mall) every Wednesday, 11 AM-1 PM. Attendance is now typically 500 and growing. Several St. Mark's parishioners attend every week. If you're interested in carpooling, please contact **Eric Kintner**. Another worthwhile resource for resisting ICE in many different ways is LUCE: <https://www.lucemass.org>

Help Support Our Neighbors Facing Food Insecurity

Many in our community are struggling with food insecurity due to the high cost of groceries and recent reductions in SNAP (food assistance) benefits. St. Mark's Church invites parishioners to help support our local food pantries during this challenging time.

Please consider bringing non-perishable food items—such as canned goods, pasta, rice, or peanut butter—and placing them in the collection basket located in the narthex.

Your generosity helps ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. Thank you for your continued compassion and support.

Vestry Nominations for 2026 are Open

The St. Mark's constitution requires that Vestry members rotate off the Vestry after six years. This year, Scott Hilton (Senior Warden), Joan O'Hare (Treasurer), and Chrissy Hemingway (At Large) have reached their term limit. Paul Ackroyd's first term is up, and he has agreed to be nominated for a second term.

Please prayerfully consider running or recommending a person for one of the open positions. The time commitment for Vestry is a once-a-month one- to two-hour Zoom meeting, followed by periodic tasks that come up during the year and are shared by Vestry members.

St. Mark's, as are many small churches, faces challenges ahead but is in a good position with a balanced budget in the last couple of years and strong leadership from Rev. Will, and those on the Vestry. You would be joining a strong team that will guide St. Mark's in its mission and ministry. Please reach out to Scott Hilton, if you are interested in a vestry position - seniorwarden@st-mark.org.

Ongoing 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 wcbgrm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Contact **Scott Hilton** if you would like to join.

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: Would you like to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Need support or assistance? Would you like to speak with a priest? Please email **Rev. Will Bergmann** at wcbgrm2n@gmail.com and Herb Elliott, our Pastoral Care team leader at herb.elliott@cheza.com. Alternatively, you can call 978-501-8479. 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

Michael O'Hare (Jr. Warden), Joan O'Hare (Treasurer), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk), Paul Ackroyd (At-Large), Chrissy Hemingway (Rental program and Pre-School Representative), Melissa Dewing, Brenda Martin, Mahiro Jilesen.

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

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford

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