

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

THEN

their eyes were

OPENED

and they recognized

HIM.

LUKE 24:31, NIV

April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter
Rev. Melissa Buono, *Officiant*
Minister of Music
Usher: Paul Ackroyd
Reader: Melissa Dewing
Chalice: Elaina Carroll

ENTRANCE HYMN: *At the Lamb's high feast we sing (Salzburg) (H 174)*

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, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

Remain seated.

- ¹I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- ²The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- ³Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”
- ¹⁰How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- ¹¹I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- ¹²I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹³Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.
- ¹⁴O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- ¹⁵I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- ¹⁶I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁷In the courts of the LORD’s house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The people sit.

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Sing praise to our Creator (Christus, der ist mein Leben) (H 295)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

All stand.

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

¹³Now on that same day two of [the disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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.

Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Kate and family, Ben, Orvil, Jim Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, and Kate, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Charlotte and Bob, Ross, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Doug and the Pecora family, Andrew Ward, John Gallacher, Janet Andrews, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Cathy C., Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Ben Meaden, Sherrie Carroll, Bob Berg, Judy and Marlene, Michael, and Marty Cassidy.

We pray for those who have recently died

Sandra, Fran Fletcher, Cora Rose, Albert Caproni, Francis Harnham.

Thanksgiving for healing

Jody

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH (*said by all*)

**Almighty 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.

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

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: *O Food to pilgrims given (O Welt, ich muss dich lassen)* (H 309)

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: *Alleluia! sing to Jesus (Hyfrydol)* (H 460)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

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

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

From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2024 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

Announcements

April 19th to April 27th

Sunday, April 19th

10 a.m.: Third Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Rev. Melissa Buono
5 p.m.: Dinner Church

Wednesday, April 22nd

7 p.m.: Book discussion of *How We Learn to Be Brave*. Contact Merideth @ trinitychapelshirley@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Thursday, April 23rd

9 a.m.: Joint Bible Study, Johnson's Restaurant Groton
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Church Office open
7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 26th

10 a.m.: Fourth Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann
11:30 a.m.: Muddy Sunday

3rd Sunday of Easter - Open Our Eyes

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus draws near, even when he is not recognized. He walks with us in our questions, our sorrow, and our hope. It is in the breaking of bread that their eyes are opened, and they see him at last. We pray that our eyes, too, may be opened, to recognize Christ in our midst and in all the quiet ways he is still at work redeeming the world.

“Carpets and Concrete” - Campaign update

The projects for new carpets and new walkways will begin starting in late May.

We've raised over **\$12,000 dollars** in March toward the \$40K funding, We will be using contributions along with existing Building Fund investments to complete the projects. Every contribution—big or small—brings us closer to our goal of raising half the costs from this appeal. We're aiming to wrap up fundraising by **May 1**. Let's create a church home that inspires, uplifts, and serves our community for years to come!

Please indicate on your check or wire transfer that your contribution is intended for the **2026 Building Campaign**.

Dinner Church - Prayers inspired by Micah 6:8
Sunday, April 19 | 5 PM | Williams Hall

Join us for Dinner Church—a time to share prayers, conversation, and a meal around the table. Inspired by the early church, Dinner Church is a lay-led service that blends familiar prayers with new reflections and community connection. This month, we'll use this passage as our inspiration:

Micah 6:8.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly

and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God

All are welcome! RSVP or send questions to Judie at familyministry@st-mark.org — or just come as you are.

Are You Ready for Muddy Sunday?

Get your work clothes ready!

Join us after service on April 26th (rain date May 3rd) for 1.5-2 hours

We have the following key objectives:

- Remove leaves, sticks, and debris from the grass and parking lot
- Clean up the beds in the front of the building; mulching will be delayed this year due to the upcoming concrete replacement project
- Patch the hole in the pavement at the entrance
- Clean windows

Bring your favorite supplies/tools. Join us immediately after coffee hour. All are welcome, there are jobs for everyone. If you can bring your own equipment/supplies, please do.

If you have any questions, either email Michael at oharemichael@yahoo.com or call/text at 617.233.3469.

Community Forum: An Evening with Loaves and Fishes, May 12 · 5:00 PM · Trinity Chapel, Shirley

For over 40 years, Loaves and Fishes has provided food to our neighbors with kindness and respect. Serving the communities of Ayer, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, and Shirley — and turning no one away — they reached over 1,000 households and 3,000 individuals last year alone.

Join us to hear Patty Stern, Executive Director, share what drives food insecurity in our region and how you can have a positive impact. For more information, contact Joan O'Hare.

Spring Book Study - *How we learn to be brave*

Every week till June 3rd, we will be discussing the NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER, ***How We Learn to Be Brave*** by Bishop Mariann Budde. The book is an inspirational guide to the key junctures in life that, if navigated with faith and discernment, pave the way for us to become our most courageous selves. The book costs \$13 on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

The discussion will be Wednesdays through June 3rd, at 7:00 pm, Meredith will lead a discussion of the book on ZOOM, reading one chapter every week. Contact Meredith to get the ZOOM link at trinitychapelshirley@gmail.com.

Outreach Box: Supporting our Local Food Banks

With changes to Federal support programs, inflation, and tariffs, the access to food has become a daily struggle for families across the area. For the next few months we will be collecting money for the Westford Food Pantry and Loaves and Fishes.

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.

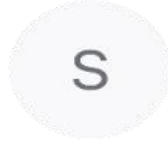
Ongoing News

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 wcbrgm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

St. Mark's Bible Study meets every other week on Thursdays 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.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Monday, May 12, 2026, at 7 p.m. on Google Meets. Contact **Jean Ellis** at seniorwarden@st-mark.org if you would like to join.

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 wcbrgm2n@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



venmo

PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbrgm2n@gmail.com, 978-501-3393

SENIOR WARDEN

Jean Ellis, seniorwarden@st-mark.org, Cell #: 978-758-6299

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS

Michael O'Hare (Jr. Warden), Scott Hilton (Treasurer), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk), Paul Ackroyd (At-Large), Jenny Meanwell, Chrissy Hemingway (Rental program), Melissa Dewing, Brennan Burks, Brenda Martin (Pre - School Representative), 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