

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



**May 10, 2026**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*  
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*  
Usher: Brenda Martin  
Reader: Jenny Meanwell  
Chalice Bearer: Sue Duran

**ENTRANCE HYMN: *As those of old their first fruits brought (Forest Green) (H 705)***

*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 17:22-31**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

*Silence may follow.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 66:7-18**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>7</sup>Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
    make the voice of his praise to be heard,  
<sup>8</sup>Who holds our souls in life, \*  
    and will not allow our feet to slip.  
<sup>9</sup>For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
    you have tried us just as silver is tried.  
<sup>10</sup>You brought us into the snare; \*  
    you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.  
<sup>11</sup>You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*  
    but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.  
<sup>12</sup>I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows, \*  
    which I promised with my lips  
    and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.  
<sup>13</sup>I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams; \*  
    I will give you oxen and goats.  
<sup>14</sup>Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
    and I will tell you what he has done for me.  
<sup>15</sup>I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
    and his praise was on my tongue.  
<sup>16</sup>If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
    the Lord would not have heard me;  
<sup>17</sup>But in truth God has heard me; \*  
    he has attended to the voice of my prayer.  
<sup>18</sup>Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
    nor withheld his love from me.

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

<sup>13</sup>Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN *Christ is made the sure foundation (Westminster Abbey) (H 518)***

*All stand.*

**GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*All stand.*

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

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he

abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

*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, Ben, Orvil, JimDerek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Charlotte and Bob, Ross, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Doug and the Pecora family, Andrew Ward, John Gallacher, Karen, Kathy, Janet Andrews, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Cathy C., Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Bob Berg, Judy and Marlene, Michael, Carol, Butch and Bev Olsson, Kate and family, and Marty Cassidy.**

**We pray for those who have recently died**

**Francis Harnham, Jeanetta McColl, Sherrie Carroll.**

**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 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*

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 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: *And now, O Father, mindful of the love (Unde et memores)* (H 337)**

**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: *Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy (Slane)* (H 482)**

**DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)**

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

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

**Please join us processing outside to the Memorial Garden for the  
interment of Sandra Jewett-Ensor's ashes.**

## Announcements

### **May 10th to May 17th**

*Sunday, May 10th*

10 a.m.: Sixth Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

*Tuesday, May 12th*

5 p.m.: Community forum at Trinity Chapel. An evening with Loaves and Fishes.

7:30 p.m.: Monthly Vestry meeting. Contact Jean Ellis for a link to attend.

*Wednesday, May 13th*

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

*Thursday, May 14th*

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Church Office Open

7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

*Sunday, May 17th*

10 a.m.: Seventh Sunday of Easter and Service of Holy Baptism, Rev. William Bergmann

5 p.m.: Dinner Church

### **6th Sunday of Easter - We are not Alone**

We are reminded that God has prepared more for us than we can see or imagine, a love that holds us, surrounds us, and lives within us. Even in times of uncertainty or trial, we are not alone, for the Spirit abides with us and in us. We pray for hearts opened to love God above all things, trusting that his promises will lead us into life beyond all we could hope for.

### **“Carpets and Concrete” - Thank YOU!!!**

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

We've raised over **\$20,000 dollars** and met our goal. Praise to the Lord! We are still taking donations if you can help minimize how much we take from our investments.

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

**Dinner Church - The Wonder of God**  
**Sunday, May 17 | 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 draw inspiration from the Wonder of God in our lives.

All are welcome! RSVP or send questions to Judie at [familyministry@st-mark.org](mailto:familyministry@st-mark.org) — or just come as you are.

### **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](#).

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](mailto: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.

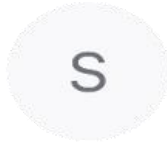
## Ongoing News

**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](mailto:secretary@st-mark.org) or **Rev. Bergmann** at [wcbgrm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wcbgrm2n@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](mailto: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 7:30 p.m. on Google Meets. Contact **Jean Ellis** at [seniorwarden@st-mark.org](mailto: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 [wcbgrm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wcbgrm2n@gmail.com) and Herb Elliott, our Pastoral Care team leader at [herb.elliott@cheza.com](mailto: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, [wcbrgm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wcbrgm2n@gmail.com), 978-501-3393

**SENIOR WARDEN**

Jean Ellis, [seniorwarden@st-mark.org](mailto:seniorwarden@st-mark.org), Cell #: 978-758-6299

**MINISTER OF MUSIC**

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

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