

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

*For you  
shall go  
out in*

**Joy**

*and be led  
forth in*

**Peace...**

Isaiah 55:12, ESV



**July 12, 2026**

Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*  
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*  
Usher/Reader: Mark and Ellen Tremblay  
Chalice: Mary Pinto

**ENTRANCE HYMN: *O Christ, the Word Incarnate (Munich) (H 632)***

**OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP 355)**

**GLORIA: S-277**

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 299)**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.***

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup>As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-14**

*Remain seated.*

[ <sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; \*  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.  
<sup>2</sup>To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, \*  
because of their transgressions.  
<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are, \*  
but you will blot them out.  
<sup>4</sup>Happy are they whom you choose  
and draw to your courts to dwell there! \*  
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,  
by the holiness of your temple.  
<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation, \*  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the seas that are far away.  
<sup>6</sup>You make fast the mountains by your power; \*  
they are girded about with might.  
<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, \*  
the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamor of the peoples.  
<sup>8</sup>Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; \*  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.  
] <sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; \*  
the river of God is full of water.  
<sup>10</sup>You prepare the grain, \*  
for so you provide for the earth.  
<sup>11</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.  
<sup>12</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, \*  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>13</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, \*  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

<sup>14</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; \*  
let them shout for joy and sing.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11**

*The people sit.*

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

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN *O day of radiant gladness (Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein)* (H 48)**

*All stand.*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

*All stand.*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Jesus went out and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!”

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

*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 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.***

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON THE ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST:**

**Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Jim, Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, Elizabeth, Jane, Charlotte and Bob, Doug and the Pecora family, Karen, Kathy, Janet Andrews, Marni Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Bob and Marlene, Michael, Carol, Butch and Bev Olson, Kate and family, Judy, Barbara, Karen, Marlene, Andrew Ward, John Gallacher, Lisa, Pamela, Elizabeth, Jane & Brooke, David Andrew and Marty Cassidy.**

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

**Fran Fletcher, Jeanetta McColl and Sherrie Carroll, William Stevenson III, Thomas Kane.**

**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.*

*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**

### **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 Celebrant says*            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.***

### **SANCTUS: S-129 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*

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 St. Mark 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: *Alleluia S-154***

**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: *Bless'd Jesus, at thy word (Liebster Jesu)* (H 440)**

**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.*

**CLOSING HYMN: *Lord, make us servants of your peace ( Dickinson College) (H 593)***

**DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People Thanks to be God.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **July 12th to July 19th**

*Sunday, July 12th*

10 a.m.: 7th Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. William Bergmann. SERVICE @ ST. MARKS

*Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>*

10 a.m. – Funeral Thomas Kane

*Thursday, July 16th*

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

*Sunday, July 19th*

10 a.m.: 8th Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. William Bergmann. SERVICE @ TRINITY CHAPEL

### **7th Sunday of Pentecost - The Spirit has set us Free!**

The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you — there is no condemnation, no sentence left to serve, because the Spirit of life has set us free. That is the soil into which the Word is sown: not the hardened path, not the shallow rock, not the thorny ground of worldly anxiety, but hearts opened by grace to bear fruit beyond imagining.

### **July Worship Schedule - Worshipping Together**

As we did last summer, for July and August we will be sharing services with our sister parish, Trinity Chapel in Shirley.

July 5	Holy Eucharist, <i>service at Trinity Chapel</i>
July 12	Holy Eucharist, Rev. Will Bergmann, <i>service at St. Mark's</i>
July 19	Holy Eucharist, <i>service at Trinity Chapel</i>
July 26	Holy Eucharist, Rev. Nancy Shepard, <i>service at St. Mark's</i>

### **Altar Lighting Project Update**

The first phase of the lighting project involved installation of track lighting to make the cross a focal point, illuminate the altar, add lighting for the choir and overall improve the lighting of the altar area. This phase has been completed. A big thank you to Eric Kintner, Brenda Martin and Paul Ackroyd for working with vendors to design this project and work with Valcourt Electric to bring this about. And finally a big thank you for those who donated to the 60th anniversary fund and other designated donations which targeted this improvement to St. Mark's.

The second phase is to install floor outlets so we don't have taped wires all over. This may be completed by the time you read this update - just waiting on some parts.

### **Walkway Replacement Project:**

Work has begun on the concrete walkway replacement from Williams Hall to the Admin wing entrance. Due to recent rain delays, we expect to pour concrete early the week of July 13th. Please note that the front entrance will be restricted until the project is completed, and the work area will be roped off while the concrete dries.

On Sundays, you're welcome to use the main doors and stairs. If the stairs present a physical challenge, please use the back door of the Admin wing, which is accessible via the right side of the building near handicapped parking. Throughout the week, please use the back door of the Admin wing for building access. A lock box with the Williams Hall combination will be at the back door for your convenience.

If you have any questions or need the lock box combination, please contact Michael O'Hare at [oharemichael@yahoo.com](mailto:oharemichael@yahoo.com) or 617-233-3469. We appreciate your patience as we complete this important improvement to our parish!

### **Carpet Replacement Project**

Our carpet is scheduled to be replaced on Monday, August 24th. We are looking for volunteers to remove all moveables (chairs, benches, etc.) right after the church service on August 23rd and then put everything back after the new carpet is installed. We don't have a date for the second part as we want to be flexible based on your availability. We just need to have it done before the service on August 30th. Please email Michael O'Hare at [oharemichael@yahoo.com](mailto:oharemichael@yahoo.com) or call at 617-233-3469 if you would like to volunteer for this support

### **Outreach Opportunities**

#### **Summer Outreach Box: Supporting St. Paul's Clothing Closet**

The St. Paul's clothing closet needs to be restocked. Among the items their clients are in need of are new packages of socks and underwear. Therefore, we will be collecting money in our outreach box through the summer to help purchase these items.

#### **Outreach committee: Are you looking for a way to serve others?**

The St. Mark's Outreach Committee is looking for new members to help coordinate, develop, and work on our outreach projects. The committee is a great way to become more involved in service to the community around our key ministries of Food Insecurity, Social Justice, and Immigrant Support. If you're interested in becoming a leader in our ministry to others, please contact Joan O'Hare or Paul Ackroyd.

#### **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.

### **Community Partnership**

#### **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:

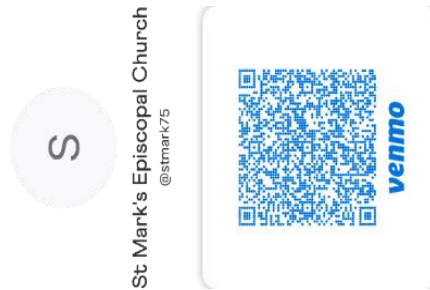
<https://www.lucemass.org>

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

The next Vestry Meeting is on Tuesday, August 11 2026, at 7:30 p.m. on Google Meet. 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 [wcbrgm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wcbrgm2n@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.



### 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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