

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



For those who want to save their life
will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake
will find it.

Matthew 16:25, NRSV

August 30, 2026

Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher/Reader:
Chalice:

ENTRANCE HYMN: *Where charity and love prevail (Cheshire)* (H 581)

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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,

nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

Remain seated.

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD,
for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
²Test me, O LORD, and try me; *
examine my heart and my mind.
³For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.
⁴I have not sat with the worthless, *
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.
⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, *

that I may go in procession round your altar,
⁷Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
⁸LORD, I love the house in which you dwell *
and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

The people sit.

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

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *All hail the power of Jesus' Name (Coronation)* (H 450)

All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

All stand.

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

²¹Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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:

**Janet Andrews, Marnie Sheeran, Bev Olson, Bob, Tina, Anna Oliverson, Susan and
Kate, Jim Derik, Evie and family: Beth, Brendan and Corinne, Charlotte and Bob,
Doug and the Pecora family, Karen, Kathy, Marcia, Sue Sweeney, Michael, Carol,
Kate and family, Judy, Barbara, Karen, Marlene, Andrew Ward, John Gallacher,
Lisa, Pamela, Elizabeth, Jane, Brooke, David Andrew, Marty Cassidy, Brian.**

PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON TRINITY CHAPEL'S PRAYER LIST.

We pray for those who have recently died:

William Stevenson III, Thomas Kane, Ralph Regner.

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

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

<i>The Celebrant says</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<i>And also with you.</i>
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<i>We lift them to the Lord.</i>
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<i>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</i>

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: *What wondrous love is this (Wondrous Love)* (H 439)

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: *Praise the Lord through every nation (Wachet auf)* (H 484)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks to be God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 30th to September 6th

Sunday, August 30th

10 a.m.: 14th Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. William Bergmann, **SERVICE @ ST. MARK'S (5th Sunday Joint Service)**

Wednesday, September 2nd

4 p.m.: St. Paul's meal. Contact Paul Ackroyd for information.

Thursday, September 3rd

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: St. Mark's Office is Open (All Are Welcome)

Sunday, September 6th

10 a.m.: 15th Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Melissa Buono

14th Sunday After Pentecost: Power through God's people

In this week's readings, God's purposes cannot be drowned, buried, or oppressed into silence; they keep multiplying, keep escaping, keep surfacing in the most unlikely places. Shiprah and Puah, two midwives whose names Pharaoh never bothered to learn, fear God more than empire and quietly subvert the machinery of death; a mother hides her son in a basket of reeds and a princess pulls him from the water, and the deliverer of Israel is saved by the courage of women on both sides of the divide. Paul calls the church to be transformed, presenting our different gifts as parts of one body in Christ. And Jesus turns to his disciples and asks the question that still demands an answer: Who do you say that I am?

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunities

The next soup kitchen is on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026**. We will be serving our popular meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, salad, dessert, bread, and milk. If you would like to be added

to the sign-up for donations, email **Paul Ackroyd** at phackroyd@verizon.net. Drop-off is at St. Mark's (outside of the admin wing on the right-hand-side of the building.)

Walkway Replacement Project (Updated News)

The walkway project is nearing completion! The new concrete is down and curing, and the lighting project is now complete. Thanks to the property team, AG Landscaping, and everyone who has contributed to this project, our front walkway is already safer and will require much less maintenance going forward. A few finishing touches remain as the concrete fully cures, including replacing broken granite panels, removing bushes on the left side, filling in around the concrete, repairing the grass area, and mulching. We're excited to see this important improvement come to fruition!

Carpet Replacement Project

Our Altar carpet has been replaced. Praise be to God! Much thanks to the Property team, Altar Guild, and the volunteers that made this happen. With the completion of the lighting project, refurbishment of the rail, and the new carpet, our Sanctuary looks awesome. Please email **Michael O'Hare** at oharemichael@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Save the Date for Dinner Church in September Sunday, September 20, 2026 | 5 PM | Williams Hall "Prayers for Community"

Dinner Church at St. Mark's is 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 or just come as you are.

Outreach Opportunities

Venezuela Earthquake Relief: Donations Welcomed

In response to the devastating earthquake in Venezuela, St. Mark's has made a \$500 donation through the Episcopal Relief & Development appeal to provide emergency relief and support for affected communities. If you feel called to help, please consider making a gift to our Outreach Fund so we can continue responding quickly and compassionately to future needs, both locally and around the world. Thank you for helping us put our faith into action.

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

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Fundraiser Dinner and Music: 80's Night!

Join us for a fun evening of food, music, and prizes as we support the soup kitchen's annual fundraiser dinner. It will be held at the Mount Pleasant Golf Club in Lowell on **Saturday, September 19, from 6:00 to 10:00 PM**. The 80's themed evening will feature dinner, dancing, silent auctions, raffles and plenty of fun to go around. We expect to fill at least one table as we did last year. Tickets are \$55 per person individually, \$50 per person if we fill a table. Please contact Paul Ackroyd or Joan O'Hare if you're interested.

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 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 Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. on Google Meet. 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 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

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.

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