

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



JUBILEE YEAR OF
SAINT
FRANCIS

1226- 2026

September 27, 2026

Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher: Elaina Carroll
Reader: Brennon Burks

ENTRANCE HYMN: *At the Name of Jesus (King's Weston)* (H 435)

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 God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"?

³"As I live," says the Lord GOD, "this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my

ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord GOD. “Turn, then, and live.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-8

Remain seated.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;

my God, I put my trust in you; *

let me not be humiliated,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O LORD, *

and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *

for you are the God of my salvation;

in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *

for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *

remember me according to your love

and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD; *

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right *

and teaches his way to the lowly.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

The people sit.

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

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but
much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is
God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Before thy throne, O God, we kneel (St. Petersburg) (H 574)*
All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

All stand.

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

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as
he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this
authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then
I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from

heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Gospel of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

All stand.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 359)

All remain standing.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, Bishop Julia Whitworth, Rev. Will Bergmann, Rev.
Melissa Buono, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or
trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

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.**

We pray for those who have recently died:

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

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: *Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness (Schmücke dich)* (H 339)

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: *Rock of ages, cleft for me (Toplady)* (H 685)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks to be God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 27th to October 4th

Sunday, September 27th

10 a.m.: 18th Sunday after Pentecost and Blessing of the Animals. Rev. Will Bergmann

Thursday, October 1st

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: St. Mark's Office is Open

Sunday, October 4th

10 a.m.: 19th Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Melissa Buono

18th Sunday After Pentecost: Who shall we trust?

In this week's readings, the question that echoes from the wilderness to the temple courts is the same: is the Lord among us or not? And will we trust what we see or only what we can control? God answers the thirsty, quarreling Israelites by standing on the rock at Horeb and bringing forth water from stone, because almighty power shows itself chiefly in mercy. Paul holds up the mind of Christ himself, who emptied himself, took the form of a slave, and became obedient to death, as the pattern for a community that looks not to its own interests but to the interests of others. Jesus cuts through the religious authorities' evasions with a parable that stings: It's the ones who first said "no" but then changed their minds who are entering the kingdom ahead of those who said "yes" and did nothing.

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.

Sunday School Returns!

Exciting news! Sunday School has launched for the fall. Every Sunday at 10 AM, Children will explore Bible stories and faith lessons through interactive activities, crafts, Legos, games, and more. If you know families looking for an inclusive, fun experience for children, please invite them! For more information, contact Judie Hilton at familyministry@st-mark.org. Growing in faith. Growing in love.

Outreach Opportunities

September Outreach Box: Supporting Merrimack Valley Project

For the month of September and October our Outreach Box donations will go to the Merrimack Valley Project. MVP is a grassroots, multi-faith, multi-racial community organizing network that develops grassroots leaders, strengthens civic engagement, and builds collective power to advance systemic change for social, racial, and economic justice across the Merrimack Valley.

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 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, October 13, 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.

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

Email: secretary@st-mark.org

Phone: (978) 692-7849

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford