

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



“Blessed
a r e t h o s e
w h o a r e
persecuted ^{for}
righteousness’
s a k e , f o r
t h e i r s i s
^{the} **kingdom**
of heaven.”

Matthew 5:10

November 1, 2026

Rev. Melissa Buono, *Officiant*
Minister of Music – *Lee Yezek*
Usher and Reader: *Tom and Jean Ellis*
Chalice: *Brenda Martin*

ENTRANCE HYMN: *For all the saints (1-4)* (H 287)

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.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The people sit.

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Remain seated.

¹I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

²I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.

⁵Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.

⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

⁹Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.

¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

²²The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

The people sit.

A Reading from the First letter of John.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

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

All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

All stand.

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

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

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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.

Celebrant: *Jesus said, “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” Trusting in God’s abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.*

Leader: *Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.*

People: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader: *God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion.*

Strengthen the bonds within this congregation, and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors

near and far.

People: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader: *God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this stewardship campaign, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.*

People: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader: *God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach*

us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.

People: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader: *God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need [especially N.]. Surround them with your healing and your peace.*

People: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader: *God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace [especially N.].*

People: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: *Loving God, you call us into your abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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

**Marnie Sheeran, Bob, Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Jim Derik, Evie and family:
Beth, Brendan and Corinne, Charlotte, 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, Steve Winter.**

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO RECENTLY DIED:

Ralph Regner, Janet Andrews, Pamela Hilton, Robert Parsons.

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: *'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free (Simple Gifts) (H 554)*

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: *Who are these like stars appearing* (H 286)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People* *Thanks to be God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 1st to November 8th

Sunday, November 1st

10 a.m.: All Saints Day, Rev. Melissa Buono

Tuesday, November 3rd

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.: Election Day. Let your voice be heard.

Wednesday, November 4th

4 p.m.: St. Paul's meal in Lowell. Contact Paul Ackroyd to volunteer.

Thursday, November 5th

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

Sunday, November 8th

10 a.m.: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Will Bergmann

All Saints Day: Blessed are those who mourn.

We read this week of how the veil between the church on earth and the church in glory grows thin. What we see on the other side is a multitude no one can count, from every nation and tribe and language, robed in white, their every tear wiped away by the hand of God. John's vision in Revelation and Jesus's Beatitudes belong together. The poor in spirit, the mourning, the meek, the persecuted: These are precisely the ones standing before the throne, because the Lamb who is their shepherd has guided them to springs of the water of life. We are God's children now, John tells us, and what we will be has not yet been revealed, but when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. The saints are not distant heroes to admire but our companions in the same hope, knit together with us in the one body of Christ.

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunities

The next soup kitchen is on **Wednesday, November 4, 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.)

Plenty Good Room: 2026 Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off

November has been designated as Stewardship month, a time for reflection on our blessings and how we might joyfully share what we have in support of St. Mark's. This year's theme, Plenty Good Room, invites us to recognize the abundance that God has entrusted to us. There is plenty good room in God's household for each of us, and good and plenty to share. Even in uncertain times we are called to trust that there is enough: enough for our families, enough for our church, enough for our neighbors.

Our financial goal for 2027 as targeted but the Vestry is \$105,000. Your gift of financial support allows us to plan a budget to fund staff salaries, operate and maintain our church building, and support the many ministries in which we participate. Unfortunately, as we are all facing, costs for everything have gone up, and running our parish is no exception. If you have not pledged in the past, please consider doing so for 2027. If you have, please prayerfully consider expanding your gift if you can to help us meet these growing financial headwinds.

There are two ways in which you can submit your pledge:

1. Fill out the pledge form located at the back of the church or received by mail and place in the offering plate, or mail to St. Mark's at 75 Cold Spring Road Westford MA 01886 (attn: Stewardship)
2. Email our confidential email address at st.markspledges@gmail.com

Gifts may be submitted throughout the month of November. Thank you, and together let us rejoice that there is always plenty good room in God's house, and plenty good work for us to do.

Faithfully,
Ellen and Mark Tremblay
2027 Campaign Chairs

Join us for Grubby Sunday

Sunday, November 8th (After service for 1.5-2 hours)

Please join us for a general clean-up on Sunday, November 8th after church. We have the following key objectives:

- Remove leaves, sticks, debris from the grass and parking lot
- Clean up the beds in the front of the building
- Clean the library. We've accumulated a lot of stuff over the years – time to get rid of some of it.

Please bring any gardening tools for flower bed cleanout and yard clean-up (tarps, leaf blower, rakes). We plan to spend about 1.5-2 hours after church.

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

Celebrating Our Sunday Service Ministries

Join us as we take a moment to honor and celebrate the dedicated groups whose time, talent, and care support our weekly Sunday worship.

- **Altar Guild:** Reverently prepares the sanctuary, vessels, and linens for the sacraments, ensuring every detail of the altar is set with care and grace.
- **Lectors & Ushers:** Welcomes our congregation with warmth, guides our worshipers, and brings scripture to life by proclaiming the Word from the lectern.
- **Choir:** Lifts our spirits in song, leading our congregational hymns and offering anthems that deepen our praise and reflection.

Interested in Serving?

We are always blessed to welcome new hands to these ministries. Whether your gifts are musical, organizational, or welcoming, there is a place for you. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can participate, please reach out to us at seniorwarden@st-mark.org.

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.

Election Night Compline | Tuesday, November 3 at 8:00 p.m.

As Election Day comes to a close, join Episcopalians from across the church for a prayerful service of Compline, offering a time of reflection, prayer, and community. The Rev. Sarah Shipman will officiate, with prayers and readings in multiple languages, opportunities to share personal prayers, and Spanish interpretation available. [Register here to join](#)

Outreach Opportunities

October Outreach Box: Supporting Merrimack Valley Project

For the month of 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.

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, November 10, 2026, at 7:00 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.

Want to learn about the symbols of the sacred elements used in the Eucharist?

The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to join them in this critical ministry. The Altar Guild prepares the altar for weekly services, attends to all the linens, sets up & breaks down for a Baptism, Funeral, Wedding, Bishop's visits, etc. They polish the brass & silver. They change out altar linens at each liturgical season, together with decorating the church. Each member has a different reason for joining the Altar Guild, but most of all, we are dedicated to supporting each other and the parish in our spiritual journeys. Please contact Brenda Martin or Elaina Carroll if you are interested. You can also email secretary@st-mark.org.



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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