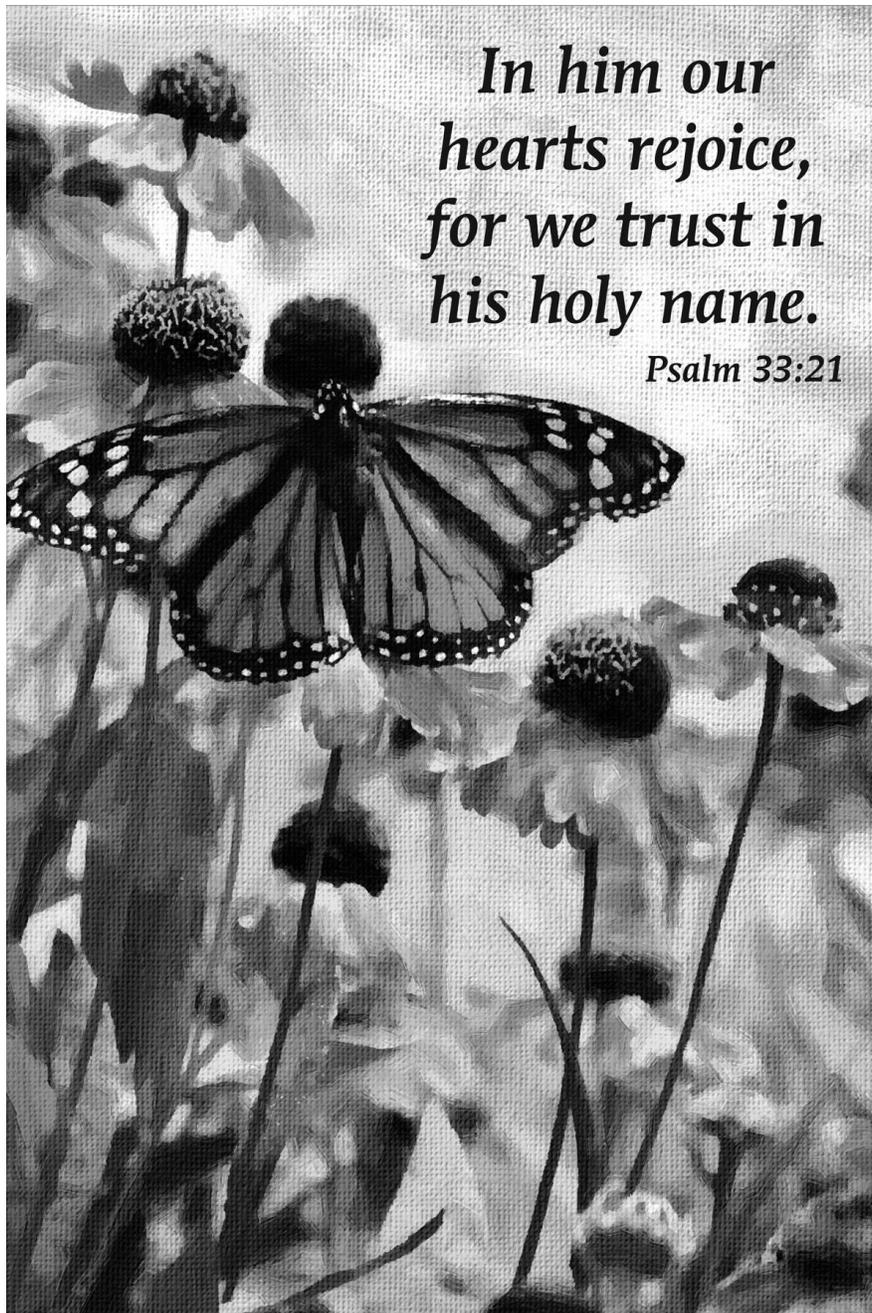


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*



August 24, 2025

Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*

Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*

Usher/ Reader: Brenda Martin

Chalice Bearer: Mary Pinto

ENTRANCE HYMN: 8 *Morning has broken (3) (Bunessan)*

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 *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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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: Isaiah 58:9b-14

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,

the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-8

Remain seated.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
²Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
³He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
⁴He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
⁵He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
⁷He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

The people sit.

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If

even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.”²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven!²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.”²⁷This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe;²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *O bless the Lord, my soul (St. Thomas (Williams)) (H 411)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

All stand.

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

¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage

on the sabbath day?”¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON – REV. WILLIAM BERGMANN

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.

We pray in a special way for those on the St. Mark's Prayer List, namely:

**Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Kate and family, Jack Winter, Deanna Teal, Ben, Bob,
Orvil, Margaret Bateman, Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, Jennifer and
Kate, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Sandra, Charlotte and Bob,
Ross, Lorenz, Michele Eberle, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Andrew Ward, Christine, Pam
Mark, John Gallacher, Beth, Janet Andrews, Jim and Cheryl, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and
Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Sabrina and family, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney,
Abbey & Sean Meaden, Albert Caproni and his family, Kintner family, Andres Martinez,
and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....(pause)**

We pray for those who have died, especially:

Betty MacNamara, Daniel Corcoran, Andy Lynch, Joseph Gesualdo, Brian, Peter, Timmy Howard, Bob Shaw, Doug, John Murphy, Ian Corrker, Patrica Hughes.

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 together the Prayer of the Parish:

Almighty & 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.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

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

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.

For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord,
in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being:
and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you,
O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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-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.

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 [_____ 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 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 - 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: *Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray (Song 1)* (H 315)

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

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

August 24th to August 31st

Sunday, August 24th

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist @ **St. Mark's**, Rev. William Bergmann

12 p.m.: Joint Vestry Retreat at St. Mark's Library.

Wednesday, August 27th

6 p.m.: Communications Team meeting. Contact Kyla for Zoom link.

Thursday, August 28th

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: St. Mark's office open

Sunday, August 31st

9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist @ **Trinity Chapel**, Rev. William Bergmann

Summer Worship Schedule

In August, we will be alternating worship services between St. Mark's and Trinity Chapel in Shirley. This will allow our Altar Guilds and ushers to have a break and allow us to enjoy Rev. Bergmann's sermons every Sunday—Trinity Chapel's address: 184 Center Rd, Shirley, MA.

August 24 at St. Mark's

August 31 at Trinity Chapel

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Fundraiser

First, thanks to everyone who supported the meal this month. We served 113 people, which is the highest number we've seen in quite a while. We had enough food for everyone, and we had a great crew of servers. Our next meal will be on September 3.

Also, St. Paul's Soup Kitchen is having a fundraising gala on September 20 in honor of the 30th anniversary of the soup kitchen's founding. It will include dinner, music, entertainment, and a raffle. Details are included in the email below. We hope to get a table at the event. Please let us know if you are interested in attending. Get tickets today or donate:

<https://givebutter.com/ZhnKMi>. Thanks to all who support this important outreach. ~ Paul

Would you like to learn about the symbols of the sacred elements used in the Eucharist? The Altar Guild is a place to learn. Join Us

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.

Summer Outreach box - Immigration Legal Defense through the Episcopal City Mission

In our continued partnership with the ECM, the outreach committee has committed to raising money for Immigrant Legal Support. So far, we have raised about \$600.

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is hearing from churches across the Commonwealth—urban and rural, affluent and working-class—all united by growing concern over Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the shrinking access to legal protections for immigrants, including asylum seekers and families who arrived here legally.

St. Mark's will be raising money through the outreach box, the outreach fund, and personal donations (note on your donation - Immigration Legal Defense). Proceeds will go to support in <https://www.acefornewamericans.org/> in Lowell and individual parishes that ECM is helping provide legal support to immigrants. If you have any questions, contact a member of the Outreach committee.

St. Mark's 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 wcbgrgm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton if you would like to join.

Ongoing Ministries

St. Mark's Bible Study meets every other week on Wednesdays 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, and he will add you to the email distribution and send you the readings.

Pastoral Care: Want to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Just want to talk to a priest? Please email or call Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com or call 978-501-8479. Herb heads up our Pastoral Care team and can have you added to the prayer list, arrange for a Pastoral Care team member to give you a call, send a card, or organize other support. Herb also has contact information for local clergy who have offered to respond to Pastoral Care needs. You can also use the "Request Pastoral Visit" button on St. Mark's website.



St Mark's Episcopal Church
@stmark75



PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

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SENIOR WARDEN

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MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS

Michael O'Hare (Jr. Warden), Joan O'Hare (Treasurer), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk), Paul Ackroyd (At-Large), Chrissy Hemingway (Rental program and Pre-School Representative), Melissa Dewing, Brenda Martin, Mahiro Jilesen.

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