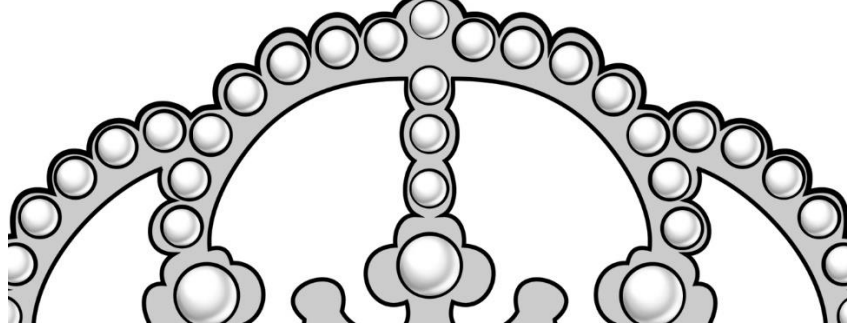


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts*

*You shall
be a*
CROWN
OF
BEAUTY
*in the hand of
the*
LORD.



Isaiah 62:3, NRSV



Sunday, September 21, 2025

Morning Prayer

Service leaders – Herb Elliott, Paul Ackroyd

Worship Plan for Sunday, September 21, 2025
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Daily Morning Prayer Rite Two

ENTRANCE HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (Lobe den Herren)* (H 390)

OPENING SENTENCE (BCP p. 75)

The Officiant says

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 79)

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**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.**

VERSICLE (BCP p. 80)

All stand

<i>Officiant</i>	Lord, open our lips.
<i>People</i>	And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

ANTIPHON (BCP p. 80)

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him' Alleluia'

INVITATORY (BCP p. 80)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The people sit.

Psalms 79:1-9

Deus, venerunt

1 O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;

they have profaned your holy temple; *

they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.

2 They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, *

and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.

3 They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, *

and there was no one to bury them.

4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors, *

an object of scorn and derision to those around us.

5 How long will you be angry, O LORD? *

will your fury blaze like fire for ever?

6 Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you *

and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.

- 7 For they have devoured Jacob *
and made his dwelling a ruin.
- 8 Remember not our past sins;
let your compassion be swift to meet us; *
for we have been brought very low.
- 9 Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; *
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.

At the end of the Psalm is sung or said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

The people sit.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:

"Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?")

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved."

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

FIRST CANTICLE (BCP p. 85)

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Ecce, Deus

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The people sit.

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
who gave himself a ransom for all

-- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Silence may follow.

SECOND CANTICLE (BCP p. 85)

Canticle 13: A Song of Praise Benedictus es, Domine Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

SEQUENCE HYMN *God Himself is with us (Tysk)* (475)

THIRD READING: Luke 16:1-13

The people sit.

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

Silence may follow.

HOMILY: BY HERB ELLIOTT

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP P.376)

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God'
Ephesians 5:2

OFFERTORY ANTIEM (short musical interlude)

THE DOXOLOGY V. 3 *From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th) (H 380)*

THE APOSTLES' CREED (BCP p. 96)

Officiant and People together, all standing.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALUTATION (BCP p. 97)

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 97)

Officiant and People

**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.**

SUFFRAGES (BCP p. 97)

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

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

Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, 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, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Andrew Ward, Christine, John Gallacher, 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, Sherrie Carroll, and Bob Berg and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....*(pause)*

We pray for those who have died, especially:

Betty MacNamara, Joseph Gesualdo, Brian, Peter, Doug, Ian Corker, Patrica Hughes, Anne Whipple Lawson, Andres Martinez.

Thanksgiving for healing

Michele Eberle

FIRST COLLECT (BCP p. 98)

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING (BCP p. 101)

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (BCP. P. 209)

**Almighty God, who hast created us in thine own image:
Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make
no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use
our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of
justice in our communities and among the nations, to the
glory of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH (BCP. 1979, P. 817)

**Almighty and 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.**

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (BCP P. 830)

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord

For our daily food and drink our homes and families' and
our friends)
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think and hearts to love, and hands to serve'
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work and leisure to rest and play'
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering
and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
*To him be praise and glory, with you O Father
and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM (BCP p. 102)

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING VERSICLE (BCP p. 102)

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING BLESSING

Go in peace and know that in God life is understood and makes sense.

In Christ your life is accepted with all of its hopes and promise.

In the Spirit, you are given the courage to face whatever you have to face-today, tomorrow and then some.

May the blessings of God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of life be with you and remain with you always. AMEN

CLOSING HYMN *Jesus, all my gladness (Jesu, Meine Freude)* (701)

Announcements

September 21st to September 28th

Sunday, September 21th

10 a.m.: Morning Prayer led by Jean Ellis, Paul Ackroyd, and Herb Elliott

5 p.m.: Dinner Church in William's Hall

Wednesday, September 24th

9 a.m.: Joint bible study with Trinity, Johnson's restaurant in Groton.

5 p.m.: Theology at the Tavern, Bull Run restaurant

Thursday, September 25th

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

Sunday, September 28th

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

Dinner Church: Sunday, September 21, 2025, Theme: Prayers for Community

Looking for a different kind of church experience?

Join us for Dinner Church—a warm, welcoming evening where we gather around the table to share a meal, prayers, and conversation. Whether you're exploring faith for the first time or have been on the journey for years, all are welcome. Inspired by the early church, this is a space for questions, stories, and connection.

No pressure. Just real people, real faith, and a shared meal.

This month, we will be praying for and discussing the communities that we belong to.

Free! (Donations are welcome, but not required)

Contact Judie Hilton if you plan to attend at familyministry@st-mark.org.

Call for nominations for MICAHA Awards:

The Merrimack Valley Project (MVP) has announced that the 2025 MICAHA Awards Dinner & Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, November 9, 2025, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM in Lawrence, MA (venue TBD). Each year, MVP acknowledges local heroes who live out Micah's words at its annual MICAHA Awards Celebration (**Ministry In Community Action Honoree**).

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

If you would like to recommend someone as this year's St. Mark's recipient, please contact Eric Kintner, Paul Ackroyd, or any member of the Vestry.

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.

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>

Theology at the Tavern: Wednesday, September 24 @ 5 p.m.

Theology at the Tavern is a supper and theological discussion event sponsored by Trinity Chapel. Enter through the back, lower level of the Bull Run restaurant, 215 Great Road in Shirley. This month's topic is Jesus as the ROCK. All viewpoints are welcome.

The number of people attending is flexible, but please contact Meredith at TrinityChapelShirley@gmail.com to let her know to expect you.

Community Christmas Chorus to Begin Rehearsals

All singers, teens and adults, are invited to join Community Christmas Chorus, a group that has been presenting a concert of Christmas songs to benefit the Westford Food Pantry since 2006. A Meet and Greet, which will include registration and music pick up, will be held on Sun., Sept. 28 at 7:00 pm at First Parish Church. Dues are \$30 a person / \$50 a couple. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday evenings at 7:30 at First Parish, beginning October 5. The concert will be on Sun., December 14 at 7:00 pm at First Parish. For further information, please call Jeanne Materman at 978-692-8416.

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 wcbgrm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Monday, September 15, 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: 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.

PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbgrm2n@gmail.com, 978-501-3393

SENIOR WARDEN

Scott Hilton, wscotthilton@gmail.com, Cell #: (978) 302-1088

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS

Tom Ellis, Jr. Warden; Joan O'Hare, Treasurer; Herb Elliott, Clerk; Paul Ackroyd, At-Large; Chrissy Hemingway, Pre-School Representative; Melissa Dewing, Dorothy

Gaumer, Kris O'Reilly, Ellen Tremblay, At-Large.

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YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEcL->