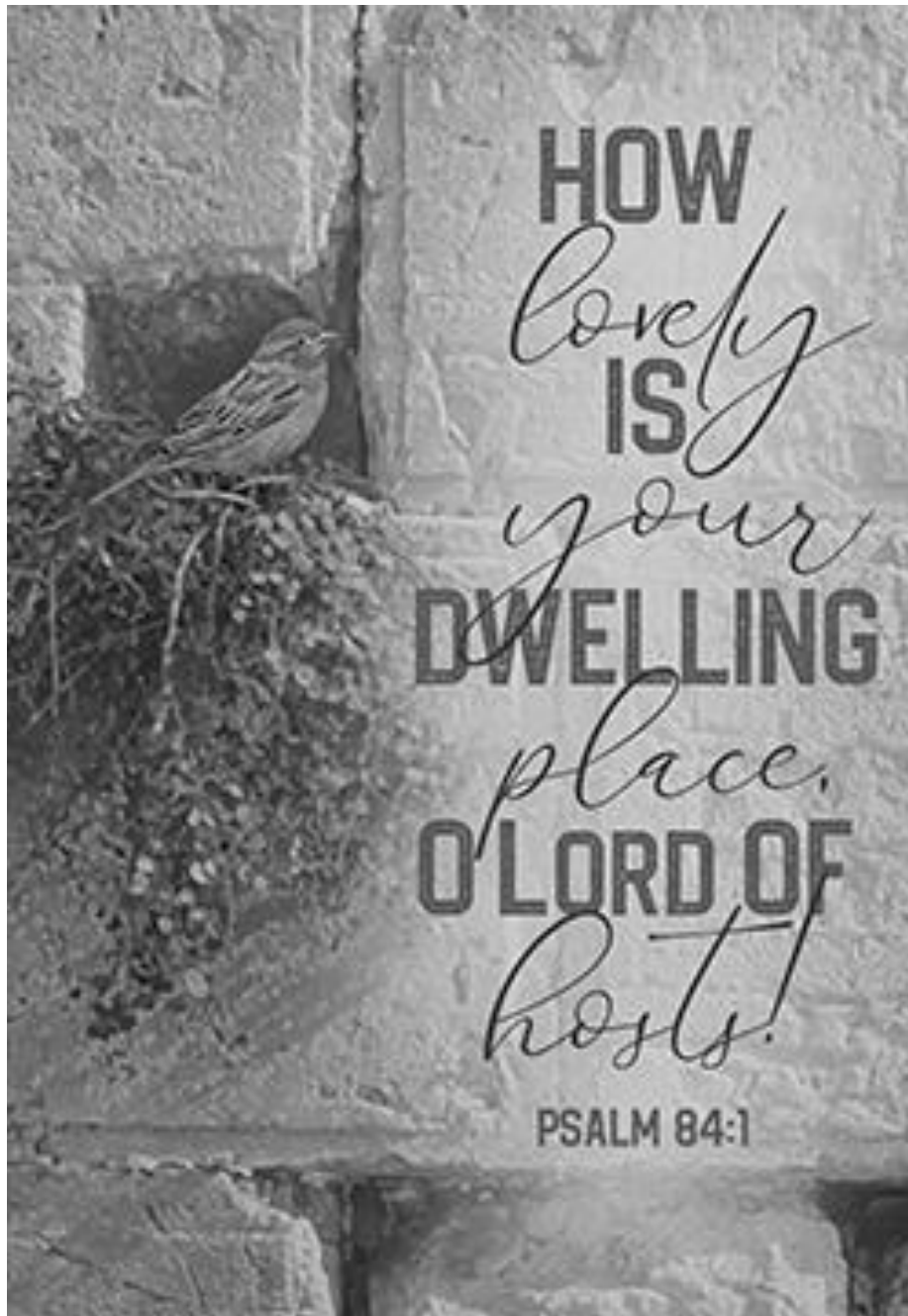


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*



October 26, 2025
Rev. Will Bergmann, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher/Reader: Herb Elliott
Chalice Bearer: Brenda Martin

ENTRANCE HYMN: *O all ye works of God, now come (Irish) (H 428)*

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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: Sirach 35:12-17

The people sit.

A Reading from Ecclesiasticus, or the Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach.

¹²Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.

¹³For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.

¹⁴Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it;

¹⁵and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;
for the Lord is the judge,
and with him there is no partiality.

¹⁶He will not show partiality to the poor;
but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.

¹⁷He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 84:1-6

Remain seated.

- ¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- ²The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- ³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- ⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- ⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- ⁶They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's Second letter to Timothy.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come.
⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN: Lord Jesus, think on me (Southwell) (H 641)

All stand.

GOSPEL: Luke 18: 9-14

All stand.

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

⁹[Jesus] told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

THE SERMON – REV. DR. WILL 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, , Ben, Bob, Orvil, Margaret Bateman, Sara and family, 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, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Sabrina and family, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Abbey & Sean Meaden, Albert Caproni and his family, Sherrie Carroll, Bob Berg, Beth and Carl, Judy and Barbara and Marlene, 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, Andres Martinez, Anne Whipple Lawson, Deanna Teal.

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.

<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

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.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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 by water and the Holy Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to
show forth your glory in all the world.

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, 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: *Father, we thank thee who hast planted (Rendez à Dieu)* (H 302)

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: *I sing the almighty power of God (Forest Green)* (H 398)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

October 26th to November 2nd

Sunday, October 26th

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

11 a.m: Blessing of the animals in Church parking lot.

Thursday, October 23rd

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

7:30 p.m.: St. Mark's Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st

SPRING FORWARD

FALL BACK

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS NOVEMBER 2.

Set your clock BACK 1 hour.

Otherwise, you will be very early!

Sunday, November 2nd

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rev. Melissa Buono

11:30 a.m.: BBQ Social in Williams Hall

Blessing of the Animals this Sunday, Oct 26

Please join us immediately after church in the driveway. In the tradition of St. Francis, Rev. Bergmann will bless all of our furry and non-furry animal friends. Please bring your pets or a picture of your favorite pet—past or present. We will celebrate and pray for the sanctity and value of all God's creatures.

All Saints Day BBQ Church Lunch

Please join us for a special after-church luncheon on Sunday, November 2, 2025, immediately following the service, as we celebrate All Saints Day with food, fellowship, and fun. BBQ sandwiches and chicken will be provided, and we invite everyone to bring a dish to share if you are able. Volunteers are also welcome to help with setup and cleanup. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a community and enjoy time together. For questions or to offer your help, please contact Chrissy Hemingway at chrissyhemingway@comcast.net or Judie Hilton at jakhilton@gmail.com.

MICAH Awards Recipients and Dinner Invitation

We are delighted to honor Chrissy Hemingway and Joan O'Hare with the MICAH Award this year for their many years of service to the community as leaders of our Outreach team. Please join us in celebrating their accomplishments and their awards.

This year's MICAH Awards Dinner & Annual Meeting is on Sunday, November 9, at Methuen's Sons of Italy Lodge 902, 459 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA. The MVP annual meeting is at 5:00 PM, followed by the MICAH Awards dinner at 6:00 PM. At this annual gathering, we honor local leaders who embody the call of Micah 6:8, "to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly." The event is also the major fundraiser for MVP each year.

We expect to fill at least two tables at the dinner, and hope to fill more. All are welcome! For additional information or to let us know you plan to attend, please contact Eric Kintner (ekintner@aol.com) or Paul Ackroyd (phackroyd@verizon.net).

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, and sets up & breaks down for Baptisms, funerals, weddings, and Bishop's visits, among other events. 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.

Trinity Chapel Community Forum - Immigration in Massachusetts - November 6, 2025

Join our friends at Trinity Chapel as they host an ongoing series of forums on topics of interest to the community. This month the topic is *Immigration in Massachusetts - State Policy and Federal Uncertainty*. The guest speaker is [State Representative Danillo Sena](#). The forum begins at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday Nov 6 at Trinity Chapel, 184 Center Road in Shirley

Outreach Box:

Immigration Legal Defense through the Episcopal City Mission

In our continued partnership with the Episcopal City Mission (ECM), the outreach committee has committed to raising money for Immigrant Legal Support. So far, we have raised over \$12000.

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.

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>

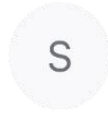
Ongoing News

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 Monday, October 20, 2025, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton if you would like to join.

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.



St Mark's Episcopal Church
@stmark75



PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbrgm2n@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

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.

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

Email: secretary@st-mark.org

Phone: (978) 692-7849

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEcL-R4RICNJs0MsDmsJppQ>