

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

...let the
HILLS
SING
together for
JOY
at the presence
of the
LORD
...

PSALM 98:8-9, NRSV

November 16, 2025
Rev. Melissa Buono, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher: Brenda Martin
Reader: Jenny Meanwell
Chalice Bearer: Mary Pinto

ENTRANCE HYMN: *O Christ, the Word Incarnate (Munich)* (H 632)

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.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: : Malachi 4:1-2a

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

¹See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a}But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

PSALM: Psalm 98

Remain seated.

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
²With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
³The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
⁵Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
⁶Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.
⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

The people sit.

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

⁶Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN: O God of every nation (Llangloffan) (H 607)

All stand.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

All stand.

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

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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

THE SERMON – REV. MELISSA BUONO

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, Doug and the Pecora family, Andrew Ward, Christine, John Gallacher,, Janet Andrews, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Sabrina and family, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Ben Meaden Albert Caproni and his family, Sherrie Carroll, Bob Berg, Beth and Carl, Judy and Barbara and Marlene, Karen, Dorothy, Maddie, David Edwards and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....(pause)

We pray for those who have died, especially:

Brian, Doug, Patrica Hughes, Andres Martinez, John Megson

Give to the departed eternal rest.

We give thanks for those who we have been praying for who have healed or greatly improved:

Michele Eberle

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.

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 in the multitude of your saints, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that
we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and,
together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

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: Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing (Alles ist an Gottes Segen) (H 334)

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: *O very God of very God (Bangor)* (H 672)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

November 16th to November 23rd

Sunday, November 16th

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

11:20 a.m.: Dedication of Trex Bench @ 54 W Prescott St, Westford

5 p.m.: Dinner Church

Wednesday, November 19th

9 a.m.: Joint bible study. Johnson's restaurant Groton.

11 a.m.: Westford civic groups supporting Bearing Witness protests at ICE facility in Burlington.

Thursday, November 20th

10 a.m - 5 p.m.: St. Marks office open

6 p.m.: Monthly communication meeting. Contact Kyla for the Zoom link.

7:30 p.m.: Choir practice

Sunday, November 23rd

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

Dedication of Trex Bench - Sunday November 9, 11:30 a.m.

After church on Sunday, join us as Rev. Will dedicates the community bench that was donated by St. Marks, the preschool, and the greater Westford community through a plastic recycling drive earlier this year. Led by Dorothy Gaumer, the community collected over 1000 pounds of plastic which was used to procure a free park bench for Westford from the Trex company.

We will gather at the Westford Skate park (54 W Prescott St, Westford), across from the Franco American club in Forge Village, immediately after the church service (1130 a.m.) for the dedication and prayers for the community. Please invite anyone you know who participated in the drive.

Gather, Pray, and Share a Meal Together at Dinner Church

Sunday, November 16 | 5 PM | Williams Hall

Join us for **Dinner Church**—a time to share prayers, conversation, and a meal around the table. Inspired by the early church, Dinner Church is a lay-led service that blends familiar prayers with new reflections and community connection. This month, we'll celebrate and pray for **Prayers of Gratitude** while sharing a meal together.

All are welcome! **RSVP or send questions to Judie at familyministry@st-mark.org** — or just come as you are.

Celebrating Our Past...Honoring the Present...Committing to the Future

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. We will be hearing many stories during our campaign this year, focusing upon the inspirations that drive folks to share their gifts from the abundance that God has given them.

The Vestry has set a target pledge goal of \$110,000. Your promises of financial support allow us to plan a budget to fund staff salaries, building maintenance and utilities, and important ministries in which we participate. If you have not pledged in the past, please prayerfully consider doing so for 2026. We need you now more than ever due to funding lost through those who have moved away. If you have pledged in the past please consider increasing your gift if you can to help us meet the increased costs associated with running our church building. St Mark's has been here for you in the past and wishes to be here for you in the future!

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 offering plate, or mail to St Marks at 75 Cold Spring Road Westford MA 01886 (attn: Stewardship)
2. Email our confidential email address at st.markspledges@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for your support!

Mark and Ellen Tremblay
2025-2026 Stewardship Chairs

Westford Groups Encourage Attendance at Bearing Witness @ ICE on Nov. 19

Several Westford organizations—including the League of Women Voters of Westford, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and First Parish Church United's Democracy Action Committee—are inviting residents to join the Bearing Witness @ ICE demonstration in Burlington on Wednesday, November 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the ICE Field Office (1000 District Ave). Participants gather peacefully each week to stand in solidarity with immigrants and affirm justice and human dignity.

Carpoolers will meet at 10:15 a.m. in the First Parish Church United parking lot (48 Main St.) on November 19. Others are welcome to meet directly at the site in Burlington.

Details and registration: tinyurl.com/bearwitnesswestford.

Questions: info@lwv.westford.org or contact **Eric Kintner**.

Outreach Box: NEW CAMPAIGN

St. Paul's Christmas Gift Drive

This year we are again supporting St. Paul's Christmas gifts drive to give to their clients much needed items. Among the things on their wish list are winter hats and gloves, blankets, hand and foot warmers, and toiletries. Our outreach box collections through December will be used to help purchase items they need. Another option is to send or drop off a check designated for St. Paul's Christmas drive. You can also purchase items directly from their Amazon gift registry at [LINK](#)

They ask that Amazon orders be made by December 6, and any other donations by December 16, as that is when they will be putting the gift bags together. Thank you!

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>

Grubby Sunday recap

Thanks to everybody who made Grubby Sunday a big success. We exceeded our goals due to a large and enthusiastic group of volunteers. We were able to:

- Clean up the front beds and prepare them for winter
- Remove leaves from the front of the church including the parking lot. We even made progress in the back yard. (Father Will was determined to make a path to the Memorial Garden and he made it!)
- Made progress on clearing out the underbrush to improve our visibility from Graniteville Road
- Overachieved on the closets clearing out 2 in the Williams Hall foyer, 2 in the choir room and Judy's office.

Nice job everybody!

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.

Vestry Nominations for 2026 are Open

The St. Mark's constitution requires that Vestry members rotate off the Vestry after six years. This year, Scott Hilton (Senior Warden), Joan O'Hare (clerk), and Chrissy Hemingway (At Large) have reached their term limit. Paul Ackroyd's first term is up, and he has agreed to be nominated for a second term.

Please prayerfully consider running or recommending a person for one of the open positions. The time commitment for Vestry is a once-a-month one- to two-hour Zoom meeting, followed by periodic tasks that come up during the year and are shared by Vestry members.

St. Mark's, as are many small churches, faces challenges ahead but is in a good position with a balanced budget in the last couple of years and strong leadership from Rev. Will, and those on the Vestry. You would be joining a strong team that will guide St. Mark's in its mission and ministry. Please reach out to Scott Hilton, if you are interested in a vestry position - seniorwarden@st-mark.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, November 10, 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, 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

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

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Phone: (978) 692-7849

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford

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