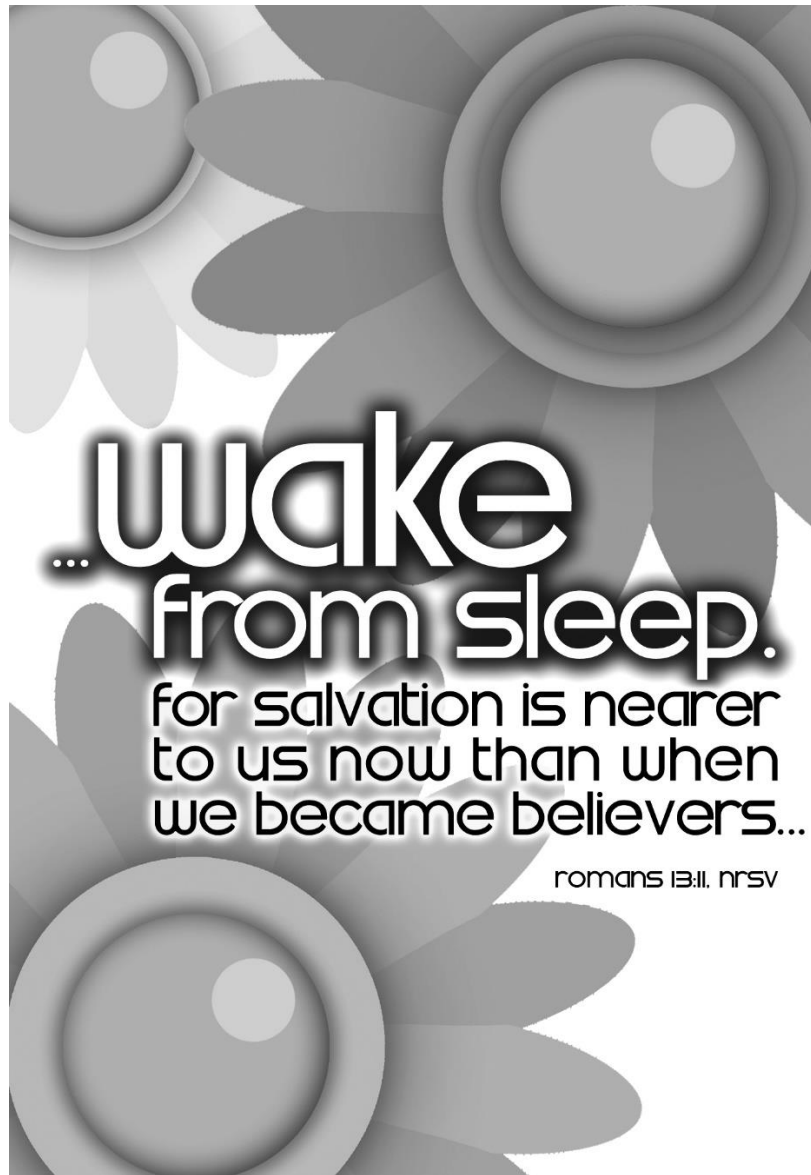


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*



**November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent**

*Rev. Edwin Johnson, Officiant
Lee Yezek, Minister of Music
Usher / Reader: Scott Hilton
Chalice Bearer: Sue Duran*

ENTRANCE HYMN: *The King shall come when morning dawns (St. Stephen) (H 73)*

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 -102 *Trisagon*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 122

Remain seated.

¹I was glad when they said to me, *
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
²Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
³Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
⁴To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.
⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
“May they prosper who love you.
⁷Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
⁸For my brethren and companions’ sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

The people sit.

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

¹¹You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending (St. Thomas) (H 58)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

All stand.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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.

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.

<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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him
of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

SANCTUS: S-124 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 – 161 Lamb of God

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: *O Food to pilgrims given (O Welt, ich muss dich lassen)* (H 309)

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: "*Sleepers, wake!*" *A voice astounds us (Wachet auf)* (H 61)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Sunday, November 30th

10 a.m.: 5th Sunday joint service of Holy Eucharist, Rev. Edwin Johnson

First Sunday of Advent - The HOPE of Jesus's arrival.

Advent begins with a call to "cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." On this first Sunday of the season, we look with hope to Jesus, who came in great humility and who will come again in majesty. A major theme of this season is that, just as we await Christ's coming at Christmas, we await his coming again.

5th Sunday Joint Service with Trinity Chapel AND first Sunday of Advent - November 30

Shake off your turkey coma and join us for a kickoff service of the advent season with our friends from Trinity Chapel. Our friend and dynamic preacher, Rev. Edwin Johnson from the Episcopal City Mission will celebrate with us as our guest priest. If you are interested in helping with coffee hour that Sunday, please contact Judie Hilton at familyministry@st-mark.org.

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.

We are 70% of the way to our 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

Outreach Box:

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>

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 (Treasurer), 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.

Community Christmas Chorus - “For the Season” concert. December 14 @ First Parish Church.

Come and celebrate the Christmas Season with the annual choral concert of Christmas music. Several of our parishioners are members of the chorus. Suggested donation is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. All proceeds benefit the Westford Food Pantry.

December 14 at 7 p.m. at First Parish Church, 48 Main Street, Westford.

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, December 8, 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.

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford

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