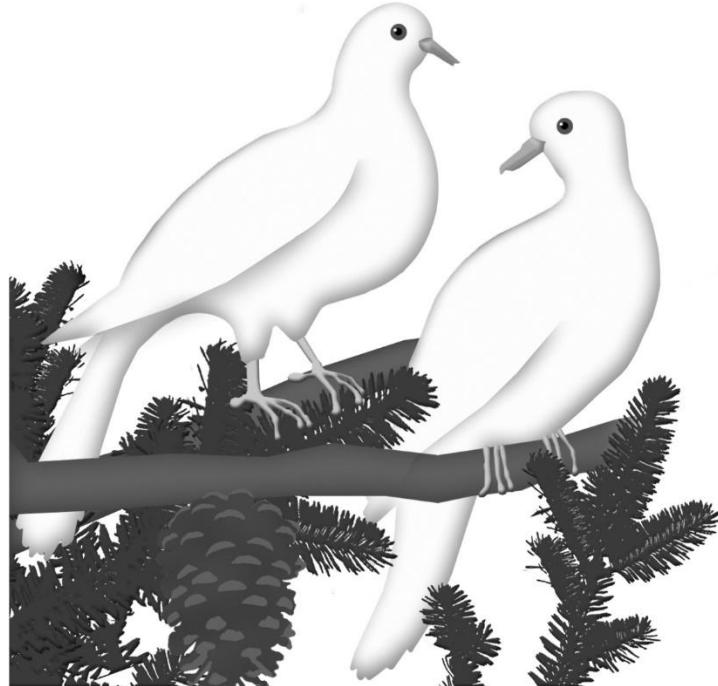


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*

**May the LORD
bless his people
with peace!**

Psalm 29:11, NRSV



January 11, 2026
First Sunday after the Epiphany
Rev. William Bergmann *Officiant*
Usher: Scott Hilton
Reader: Melissa Dewing
Chalice Bearer: Brenda Martin

ENTRANCE HYMN: *Christ, whose glory fills the skies (Ratisbon)* (H 7)

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP 355)

GLORIA: *S-277*

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, 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 Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.”

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶“I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.”

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 29

Remain seated.

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
 worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
 the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
 the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
⁶he makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
⁸The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
 and strips the forests bare.
⁹And in the temple of the LORD *
 all are crying, “Glory!”
¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
 the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
¹¹The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
 the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and the other Gentiles]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Christ, when for us you were baptized (Caithness)* (H 121)
All stand.

All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

All stand.

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

¹³Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

THE SERMON

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *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, Ben, Bob, Orvil, Margaret Bateman, Sara and family, Jim Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, 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, Anika and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....(pause)

We pray for those who have died, especially:

Doug, Patricia Hughes, Andres Martinez, John Megson.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

Michele Eberle, Dan.

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.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	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.

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-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: S – 154 *Alleluia*

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: *Sing praise to our Creator (Christus, der ist mein Leben)* (H 295)

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: *God the Omnipotent! King, who ordainest (Russia)* (H 569)**DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Announcements**January 11th to January 18th**

Sunday, January 11th

10 a.m.: 1st Sunday after Epiphany, Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

Monday, January 12th

7 p.m.: Vestry Meeting via Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton to join.

Wednesday, January 14th

9 a.m.: Joint Bible study with Trinity Chapel. Johnson's restaurant Groton

7 p.m.: Joint adult formation series with Rev. Bergmann via Zoom. Contact Rev. Bergmann for link.

Thursday, January 8th

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Church Office open

7:30 p.m.: Choir practice

Sunday, January 18th

10 a.m.: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, Holy Eucharist, Rev. Melissa Buono

1130 a.m.: Annual Meeting and Potluck

1st Sunday after Epiphany - The Lord's Baptism

On this feast of our Lord's Baptism, we remember the voice from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son and the Spirit descending upon him in power. We pray that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made and boldly confess Christ as Lord and Savior. Strengthened by the Spirit who anoints and leads us, we walk in the way of the One who brings justice, peace, and new life to the world.

St. Mark's Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 2026

St. Mark's Annual Meeting will take place after the service on Sunday, January 18. During the meeting, we will vote on new Vestry members, hear updates from our committees, review the budget, and celebrate our past year and the year ahead. More information including the agenda and Annual Report when its ready can be found at <https://www.st-mark.org/events/save-the-date-st-mark-s-annual-meeting/2026-01-18>

If you would like to attend remotely via Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton at seniorwarden@st-mark.org for the link.

We will also share a meal together. The Hospitality Committee will provide the entrée, and we are asking parishioners to bring potluck items for salads and desserts. If you would like to help, please contact Judie Hilton at familymministry@st-mark.org.

The Politics of Religion and the Religion of Politics An Adult Formation Series with Rev. Will Bergmann

What happens when faith meets the public square? How do we navigate the complex relationship between Church and State in our current moment?

Join us for a thoughtful exploration of these timely questions through conversation, scripture, and the wisdom of our Episcopal tradition. Whether you're curious about historical perspectives or wrestling with contemporary issues, this six-week study offers a welcoming space to engage, question, and learn together.

Wednesdays, January 7 - February 12, 2025
7:00 - 8:00 PM via Zoom (email Rev. Bergmann for the link)

Outreach Box: Heating support for those in need this winter

The Sunday School has asked that we support a program that gives heating assistance to those in need. The Outreach committee will donate collected funds for the [**Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund**](#). This organization works with several local communities and utilities to help cover heating expenses for those who need help.

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.

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 wcbrgm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Monday, January 12, 2026, 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 wcbrgm2n@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

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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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