

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

*The people walking in
DARKNESS have
seen a
great light.*



Isaiah 9:2

January 25, 2026
Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher and Reader: Jean and Tom Ellis
Chalice Bearer: Elaina Carroll

ENTRANCE HYMN: *Morning has broken (Bunessan)* (H 8)

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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness

 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 27:1, 5-13

Remain seated.

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *

the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

⁵One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *

 that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

⁶To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *

 and to seek him in his temple.

⁷For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *

 he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling

 and set me high upon a rock.

⁸Even now he lifts up my head *

 above my enemies round about me.

⁹Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *

 I will sing and make music to the LORD.

¹⁰Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *

 have mercy on me and answer me.

¹¹You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.” *

 Your face, LORD, will I seek.

¹²Hide not your face from me, *

 nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

¹³You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *

 do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

The people sit.

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

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *My God, thy table now is spread (Rockingham)* (H 321)

All stand.

Matthew 4:12-23

All stand.

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

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
 on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
 have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
 light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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, Kate and family, Ben, Orvil, Jim Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, and Kate, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Charlotte and Bob, Ross, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Doug and the Pecora family, Andrew Ward, 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, Judy and Marlene, Fran, Anika and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....(pause)

We pray for those who have died, especially:

Sandra.

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

CONFSSION 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.
<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-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: *Let thy Blood in mercy poured (Jesus, meine Zuversicht)* (H 313)

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 come with joy to meet my Lord (Land of Rest)* (H 304)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Announcements

January 25th to February 1st

Sunday, January 25th

10 a.m.: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

5 p.m.: Dinner Church - **CANCELLED**

Wednesday, January 28th

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

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

7 p.m.: Joint adult formation series with Rev. Bergmann via Zoom. Zoom link in the email newsletter

Thursday, January 29th

9 a.m.: Joint Bible Study with Trinity Chapel at Johnson's restaurant in Groton.

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

7:30 p.m.: Choir practice

Sunday, February 1st

10 a.m.: 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Holy Eucharist, Rev. Melissa Buono

3rd Sunday after Epiphany - The Call of Christ

We ask God for grace to readily answer the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and to proclaim the Good News of his salvation. The great light that dawned on those who sat in darkness still shines, drawing us into the work of Christ's kingdom. Following the One who calls, we join in making his marvelous works known to the whole world.

Celebration of Life for Sandra Jewett-Ensor

Our dear friend, Altar Guild member, and long-time parishioner, Sandra, passed away peacefully last Sunday, January 18th, at her daughter's home. A Celebration of Life, open to all, will be held at St. Mark's next Thursday, January 29, at 11:00 AM, with a reception to follow. Sandra's ashes will be interred in the St. Mark's memorial garden this Spring. (exact date to be determined.)

SNOW CANCELLATION! - Dinner Church is cancelled for Sunday, January 18.

With the peak of the snow storm hitting at 5 PM and the Patriots game, **Dinner Church** for this Sunday is cancelled. Please reach out to Judie Hilton at familyminstry@st-mark.org if you have any questions.

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

[Join Zoom Meeting:](#)

Meeting ID: 290 631 1022
Passcode: sZfX8p

Theology at the Tavern: Wednesday, January 28 @ 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 **What does it mean to bless, to give blessing and to be blessed.** 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.

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, February 10, 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 Thursdays 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.



St Mark's Episcopal Church
@stmark75



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PRIEST - IN - CHARGE

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VESTRY MEMBERS

Michael O'Hare (Jr. Warden), Scott Hilton (Treasurer), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk), Paul Ackroyd (At-Large), Jenny Meanwell, Chrissy Hemingway (Rental program), Melissa Dewing, Brennan Burks, Brenda Martin (Pre- School Representative), Mahiro Jilesen.

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