

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



M a t t h e w 5 : 1 4

February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher: Herb Elliott
Reader: Melissa Dewing
Chalice: Sue Duran

ENTRANCE HYMN: *O Zion, tune thy voice (Eastview) (H 543)*

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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

Remain seated.

¹Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the LORD.

⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

The people sit.

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

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.]

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God (O heiliger Geist)* (H 505)
All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

All stand.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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, JimDerek, 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, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Ben Meaden, Albert Caproni and his family, Sherrie Carroll, Bob Berg, Judy and Marlene, Sue and Bob, Anika and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....*(pause)*

We pray for those who have died, especially:

Sandra Jewett-Ensor, Cora Rose, Fran Fletcher.

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.

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.

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: *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart (Slane)* (H 488)

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: *How bright appears the Morning Star (Wie schön leuchtet)* (H 497)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

February 8th to February 15th

Sunday, February 8th

10 a.m.: 5th Sunday after Epiphany, Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

Tuesday, February 10th

7 p.m.: Vestry meeting via Google Meets. Contact Jean Ellis @ seniorwarden@st-mark.org if you would like to attend.

Wednesday, February 11th

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

Thursday, February 12th

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

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

7:30 p.m.: Choir practice

Sunday, February 15th

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

5 p.m.: Dinner Church in William's Hall

5th Sunday after Epiphany - Give us the Liberty of Abundant Life

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

Sunday, February 15 | 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 **In uncertain times, Prayers for the Helpers** 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.

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

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 wcbgrm2n@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 **Jean Ellis** at seniorwarden@st-mark.org 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 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

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MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

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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