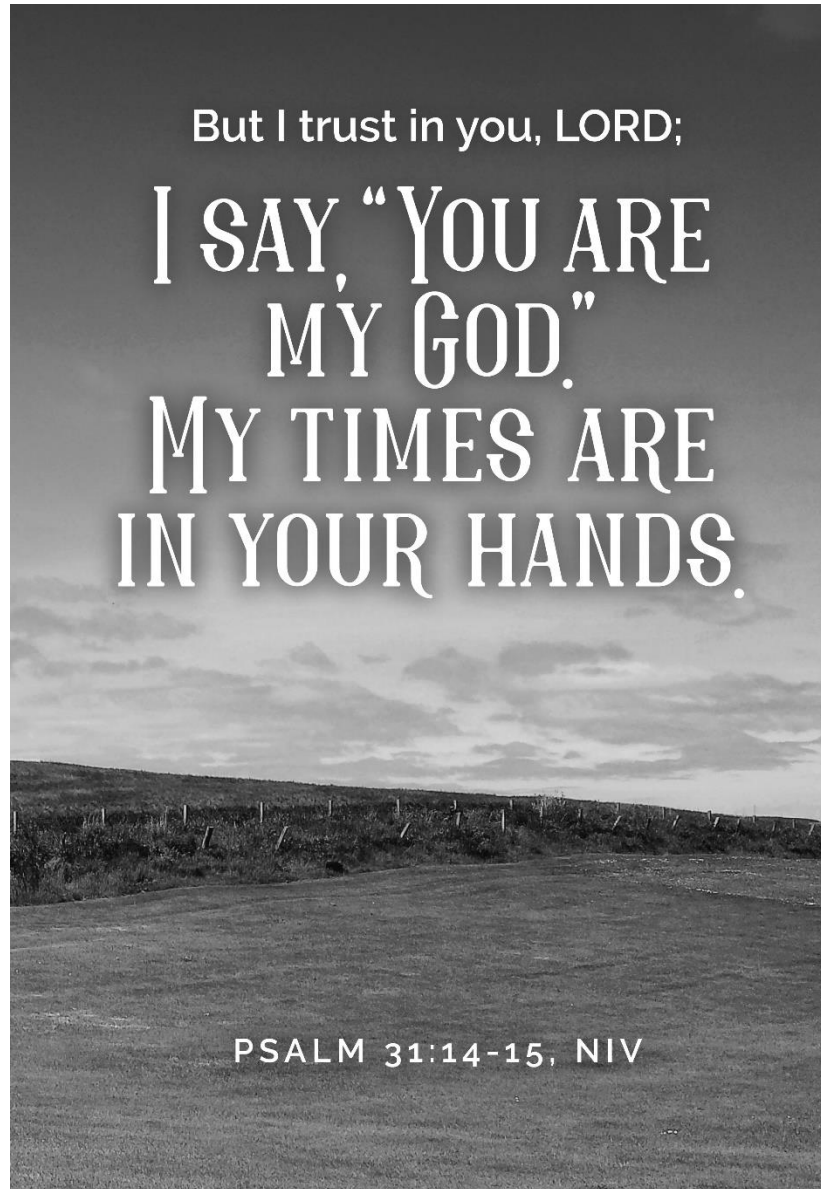


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*



May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Rev. Melissa Buono, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher/Reader: Michael and Joan O'Hare
Chalice Bearer: Brenda Martin

ENTRANCE HYMN: *Lord, whose love through humble service (Blaenhafren) (H 610)*

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Remain seated.

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
 deliver me in your righteousness.
²Incline your ear to me; *
 make haste to deliver me.
³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
 for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
 for you are my tower of strength.
⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
 O LORD, O God of truth.
¹⁵My times are in your hand; *
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
 and from those who persecute me.
¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
 and in your lovingkindness save me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

The people sit.

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
 a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
 and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Thou art the Way, to thee alone (St. James) (H 457)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

All stand.

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

[Jesus told his disciples,] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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 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.

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 for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON THE ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST

Let us pray for our own needs and others.

Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Ben, Orvil, JimDerek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Charlotte and Bob, Ross, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Doug and the Pecora family, Andrew Ward, John Gallacher, Karen, Kathy, Janet Andrews, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Cathy C., Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Sherrie Carroll, Bob Berg, Judy and Marlene, Michael, Carol, Butch and Bev Olsson, Kate and family, and Marty Cassidy.

We pray for those who have recently died

Francis Harnham, Jeanetta McColl.

We especially remember Kathryn Bergmann on the anniversary of her death.

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH (*said by all*)

**Almightly and 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.**

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.

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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-128

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: ALLELUIA S - 155

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: *Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray (Song 1) (H 315)*

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: *Praise the Lord through every nation (Wachet auf) (H 484)*

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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Announcements

May 3rd to May 10th

Sunday, May 3rd

10 a.m.: Fifth Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Rev. Melissa Buono

11:30 a.m.: Muddy Sunday

Wednesday, May 6th

4 p.m.: St. Paul's Soup kitchen. Contact Paul Ackroyd to serve.

7 p.m.: Book discussion of *How We Learn to Be Brave*. Contact Merideth @ trinitychapelshirley@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Thursday, May 7th

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

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

7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 10th

10 a.m.: Sixth Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

5th Sunday of Easter - The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus meets our questions and our troubled hearts with a promise: he is the way, the truth, and the life. Even in the face of uncertainty or suffering, we are not left alone. We are being drawn into the very life of God. We pray for the grace to know him more deeply, and to follow where he leads, trusting that his way is the path to life.

“Carpets and Concrete” - Campaign update

The projects for new carpets and new walkways will begin starting in late May.

We've raised over **\$16,000 dollars** so far toward the \$40K funding, We will be using contributions along with existing Building Fund investments to complete the projects. Every contribution—big or small—brings us closer to our goal of raising half the costs from this appeal. We're aiming to wrap up fundraising by **May 1**. Let's create a church home that inspires, uplifts, and serves our community for years to come!

Please indicate on your check or wire transfer that your contribution is intended for the **2026 Building Campaign**.

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunities

The next soup kitchen is on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**. We will be serving our popular meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, salad, dessert, bread, and milk. If you would like to be added to the sign-up for donations, email Paul Ackroyd at phackroyd@verizon.net. Drop-off is at St. Mark's (outside the admin wing - right-hand side of the building).

Muddy Sunday Recap

A big thank you for all the help last Sunday. We had perfect weather.

We accomplished the following:

- Cleaned the windows
- Spruced up the planting beds in front of the church
- Moved some perennials from around the walkway in preparation for the concrete project
- Planted annuals in the containers
- Patched the driveway hole at the entrance
- Cleaned up the beds at the entrance
- Planted grass seed in the areas damaged by snowplowing
- Raked the grass
- Cleaned up the parking lot

Now we are ready for Mother's Day and our many spring activities!

Thanks from your property team - Tom, Paul, Eric and Michael

Community Forum: An Evening with Loaves and Fishes, May 12 · 5:00 PM · Trinity Chapel, Shirley

For over 40 years, Loaves and Fishes has provided food to our neighbors with kindness and respect. Serving the communities of Ayer, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, and Shirley — and turning no one away — they reached over 1,000 households and 3,000 individuals last year alone.

Join us to hear Patty Stern, Executive Director, share what drives food insecurity in our region and how you can have a positive impact. For more information, contact Joan O'Hare.

Spring Book Study - *How we learn to be brave*

Every week till June 3rd, we will be discussing the NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER, *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Bishop Mariann Budde. The book is an inspirational guide to the key junctures in life that, if navigated with faith and discernment, pave the way for us to become our most courageous selves. The book costs \$13 on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

The discussion will be Wednesdays through June 3rd, at 7:00 pm, Meredith will lead a discussion of the book on ZOOM, reading one chapter every week. Contact Meredith to get the ZOOM link at trinitychapelshirley@gmail.com.

Outreach Box: Supporting our Local Food Banks

With changes to Federal support programs, inflation, and tariffs, the access to food has become a daily struggle for families across the area. For the next few months we will be collecting money for the Westford Food Pantry and Loaves and Fishes.

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.

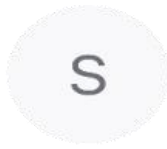
Ongoing News

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.

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.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Monday, May 12, 2026, at 7 p.m. on Google Meets. Contact **Jean Ellis** at seniorwarden@st-mark.org if you would like to join.

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



PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbrgm2n@gmail.com, 978-501-3393

SENIOR WARDEN

Jean Ellis, seniorwarden@st-mark.org, Cell #: 978-758-6299

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.

St. Mark's Website: www.st-mark.org

Email: secretary@st-mark.org

Phone: (978) 692-7849

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford