

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



**October 4, 2026**

Rev. Melissa Buono, *Officiant*  
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*  
Usher: Herb Elliot  
Reader: Chuck Chase  
Chalise: Elaina Carroll

**ENTRANCE HYMN: *Not far beyond the sea, nor high (Cornwall)* (H 422)**

**OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)**

*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-277**

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 299)**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The Lessons**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

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

*Silence may follow.*

## **PSALM: Psalm 80:7-14**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine out of Egypt; \*  
you cast out the nations and planted it.  
<sup>9</sup>You prepared the ground for it; \*  
it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered by its shadow \*  
 and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.  
<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea \*  
 and its branches to the River.  
<sup>12</sup>Why have you broken down its wall, \*  
 so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?  
<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, \*  
 and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.  
<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;  
 behold and tend this vine; \*  
 preserve what your right hand has planted.

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

*The people sit.*

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

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

*Silence may follow.*

## **SEQUENCE HYMN *Hail, thou once despis'd Jesus (In Babilone)* (H 495)**

*All stand.*

## GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

*All stand.*

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*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.*

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

**Janet Andrews, Marnie Sheeran, Bev Olson, Bob, Tina, Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate,  
Jim Derik, Evie and family: Beth, Brendan and Corinne, Charlotte and Bob,  
Doug and the Pecora family, Karen, Kathy, Marcia, Sue Sweeney, Michael, Carol,  
Kate and family, Judy, Barbara, Karen, Marlene, Andrew Ward, John Gallacher, Lisa,  
Pamela, Elizabeth, Jane, Brooke, David Andrew, Marty Cassidy, Brian.**

**We pray for those who have recently died:**

**Ralph Regner.**

#### **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>    | <b>And also with you.</b>                 |

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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**

|                           |                                                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>The Celebrant says</i> | The Lord be with you.                                    |
| <i>People</i>             | <b><i>And also with you.</i></b>                         |
| <i>Celebrant</i>          | Lift up your hearts.                                     |
| <i>People</i>             | <b><i>We lift them to the Lord.</i></b>                  |
| <i>Celebrant</i>          | Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.                  |
| <i>People</i>             | <b><i>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</i></b> |

**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*

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 St. Mark 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-154***

**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.*

**CLOSING HYMN: *My song is love unknown (Love Unknown)* (H 458)**

**DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*      *Thanks to be God.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### October 4th to October 11th

*Sunday, October 4th*

10 a.m.: 19th Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Melissa Buono

*Wednesday, October 7th*

4 p.m.: St. Paul's meal in Lowell. Contact Paul Ackroyd to volunteer

*Thursday, October 8th*

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: St. Mark's Office is Open

*Sunday, October 11th*

10 a.m.: 20th Sunday after Pentecost, Morning Prayer, Noelle Eve Heinrich, seminarian at the United Lutheran Seminary

### **19th Sunday After Pentecost: God is ready. Are you?**

In this week's readings, God, who is always more ready to give than we are to ask, plants a vineyard, speaks commandments from a smoking mountain, and sets the heavens themselves declaring glory. God asks only that we bear fruit worthy of such lavish care. Isaiah's vineyard song and Jesus's parable strike the same sobering note; the vineyard and its real-life parallel were tended with everything they needed and still yielded wild grapes, still killed the messengers, still rejected the son. That rejected stone has become the cornerstone, and that is the Lord's doing. Paul counts every credential and achievement as rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ, pressing on toward the goal not because he has arrived but because Christ Jesus has made him his own. The heavens declare it, the law confirms it, and the resurrection seals it: God gives what we could never deserve nor dare to ask.

### **St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunities**

The next soup kitchen is on **Wednesday, October 7, 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](mailto:phackroyd@verizon.net). Drop-off is at St. Mark's (outside of the admin wing on the right-hand-side of the building.)

### **Sunday School Returns!**

Exciting news! Sunday School has launched for the fall. Every Sunday at 10 AM, Children will explore Bible stories and faith lessons through interactive activities, crafts, Legos, games, and more. If you know families looking for an inclusive, fun experience for children, please invite them! For more information, contact Judie Hilton at [familyministry@st-mark.org](mailto:familyministry@st-mark.org). Growing in faith. Growing in love.

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **September Outreach Box: Supporting Merrimack Valley Project**

For the month of September and October our Outreach Box donations will go to the Merrimack Valley Project. MVP is a grassroots, multi-faith, multi-racial community organizing network that develops grassroots leaders, strengthens civic engagement, and builds collective power to advance systemic change for social, racial, and economic justice across the Merrimack Valley.

### **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.

## **Community Partnership**

### **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>.

## **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](mailto:secretary@st-mark.org) or **Rev. Bergmann** at [wcbgrm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wcbgrm2n@gmail.com) or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. on Google Meet. Contact **Jean Ellis** at [seniorwarden@st-mark.org](mailto: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 [wcbgrm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wcbgrm2n@gmail.com) and **Herb Elliott**, our Pastoral Care team leader at [herb.elliott@cheza.com](mailto: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.

**Want to learn about the symbols of the sacred elements used in the Eucharist?**

The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to join them in this critical ministry. The Altar Guild prepares the altar for weekly services, attends to all the linens, sets up & breaks down for a Baptism, Funeral, Wedding, Bishop's visits, etc. They polish the brass & silver. They change out altar linens at each liturgical season, together with decorating the church. Each member has a different reason for joining the Altar Guild, but most of all, we are dedicated to supporting each other and the parish in our spiritual journeys. Please contact Brenda Martin or Elaina Carroll if you are interested. You can also email [secretary@st-mark.org](mailto:secretary@st-mark.org).



**PRIEST - IN - CHARGE**

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, [wcbgrm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wcbgrm2n@gmail.com), 978-501-3393

**SENIOR WARDEN**

Jean Ellis, [seniorwarden@st-mark.org](mailto:seniorwarden@st-mark.org), Cell #: 978-758-6299

**MINISTER OF MUSIC**

Lee Yezek: [lyezek@gmail.com](mailto: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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