

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



Sunday, October 11, 2026

Morning Prayer

Service leader – Mrs. Noelle Eve Heinrich

Minister of Music – Lee Yezek

Reader: Melissa Dewing

***Mrs. Noelle Eve Heinrich is a second - year seminarian
in Episco - Speak, we would say “Middler” at ULS and
an entranced candidate for ministry
in the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)***

Daily Morning Prayer

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

OPENING SENTENCE (BCP p. 75)

The Officiant says

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 79)

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**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.**

VERSICLE (BCP p. 80)

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

ANTIPHON (BCP p. 80)

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him' Alleluia'

INVITATORY (BCP p. 80)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The people sit.

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Confitemini Domino, Et fecerunt vitulum

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

- 4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;
- 5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.
- 6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
- 19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;
- 20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
- 21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,
- 22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
- 23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

At the end of the Psalm is sung or said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

The people sit

O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,

you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might
save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

Silence may follow.

FIRST CANTICLE (BCP p. 85)

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah
Ecce, Deus
Isaiah 12:2-6

**Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,*
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

The people sit.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SECOND CANTICLE (BCP p. 85)

Canticle 13: A Song of Praise Benedictus es, Domine
Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths; *

**in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

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

THIRD READING: Matthew 22:1-14

The people sit.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Silence may follow.

HOMILY: By Mrs. Noelle Eve Heinrich

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP P.376)

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God'
Ephesians 5:2

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (short musical interlude)

THE DOXOLOGY V. 3 *From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th) (H 380)*

THE APOSTLES' CREED (BCP p. 96)

Officiant and People together, all standing.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALUTATION (BCP p. 97)

The people stand or kneel

<i>Officiant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Officiant</i>	Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 97)

Officiant and People

**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.**

SUFFRAGES (BCP p. 97)

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

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

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, Janet Andrews.

FIRST COLLECT (BCP p. 98)

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 GENERAL THANKSGIVING (BCP p. 101)

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (BCP. P. 209)

**Almighty God, who hast created us in thine own image:
Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make
no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use
our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of
justice in our communities and among the nations, to the
glory of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH (BCP. 1979, P. 817)

**Almighty 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.**

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (BCP P. 830)

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord

For our daily food and drink our homes and families' and
our friends)
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think and hearts to love, and hands to serve'
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work and leisure to rest and play'
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering
and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

***To him be praise and glory, with you O Father
and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.***

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM (BCP p. 102)

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING VERSICLE (BCP p. 102)

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING BLESSING

Go in peace and know that in God life is understood and makes sense.

In Christ your life is accepted with all of its hopes and promise.

In the Spirit, you are given the courage to face whatever you have to face-today, tomorrow and then some.

May the blessings of God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of life be with you and remain with you always.

AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN: *Jesus, all my gladness (Jesu, meine Freude)* (H 701)

Announcements

October 11th to October 18th

Sunday, October 11th

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

Tuesday, October 13th

7 p.m.: Monthly Vestry meeting on Google Meets. Contact Jean Ellis if interested in joining.

Thursday, October 15th

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

Sunday, October 18th

10 a.m.: 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Melissa Buono

5 p.m.: Dinner Church. Contact Judie Hilton for information

20th Sunday After Pentecost: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.

This week, the invitation goes out to everyone in the streets: The banquet is ready and the table is set, and Isaiah sees it whole, with a feast of rich food on the mountain, death swallowed up forever, every tear wiped away. Moses stands in the breach as Israel worships a golden calf, interceding for a stiff-necked people with the only argument that holds: remember your promises. God relents, because mercy endures forever. Paul writes from prison with inexplicable joy: Rejoice, the Lord is near, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Grace precedes us into every room we enter and follows us out.

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. Drop-off is at St. Mark's (outside of the admin wing on the right-hand-side of the building.)

Dinner Church Sunday, October 18, 2026 | 5 PM | Williams Hall

Prayers of God's Creation.

Come Join us for Dinner Church at St. Mark's. Dinner Church is an intimate setting 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 draw inspiration from the beauty of God's creation. All are welcome! RSVP or send questions to Judie at or just come as you are.

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. Growing in faith. Growing in love.

Outreach Opportunities

October Outreach Box: Supporting Merrimack Valley Project

For the month of 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 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 Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. on Google Meet. 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 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.

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.



St Mark's Episcopal Church
@stmark75



PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbgrm2n@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.

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